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Commons assert campus presence

Albert Bitici

Afloat in the College Natatorium, students viewed *"Jaws"* Friday night at a screening and pool party organized by Brainerd Commons.

Brainerd, others make splash in campus social scene

By Kathryn Flagg and Ben Salkowe
News Editors

In a score for Brainerd Commons, a steady crowd of over 200 turned out last Friday night for a late October pool party, complete with more than $2,200 worth of inflatable tubes and rafts and a two-story high projection screen showing *"Jaws."* Telling students not to worry about "rapidly paling Vermont skin," the event planners shut down the Natatorium lighting and cranked up the pool's underwater lights. But for the commons system, which has been a perennial student aggravation from its inception, last Friday's grand event — which cost the College nearly $6,000 — was significant not because of its scale or creativity, but due to its success.

There is a sense among many students and administrators involved with the commons that the residential life system is at a uniquely important point in its evolution. "My sense is the social houses, especially now with more restrictive alcohol regulations, are less of a weekend social enterprise than they once were," said Karl Lindholm '67, acting faculty head of Brainerd Commons.

"That naturally puts some pressure on the commons to provide weekend activities," he added. "Where in the past I think we were big on lectures and readings and concerts, we are getting some encouragement from the Fi-

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Midd assets take a new direction

By Liz Campbell
Staff Writer

In June 2005, the Investment Committee of the Board of Trustees elected to partner with Investure, LLC, an asset-management company specializing in small colleges and nonprofit organizations, in order to more effectively manage Middlebury College's endowment and assets. The new partnership will function as the College's external investment office and is anticipated to substantially maximize Middlebury's endowment performance.

In response to the growing size of the College's endowment and to the increasing complexity of investment strategies employed by well-managed endowments, the Investment Committee underwent a comprehensive endowment management review process in late 2004 and in the first half of 2005. Concluding that an outside firm would provide more efficiency in finding profitable alternative investments and diversify its portfolio, the Committee chose to pursue a partnership with Investure.

Investure was started by Alice Handy, former chief investment officer of the University of Virginia's Investment Management Company, to serve small colleges and nonprofit organizations. Specifically, the company caters to a growing niche of entities such as Middlebury College, that have sufficient assets to take advantage of sophisticated investments like hedge funds, but lack the resources to do so without outside help.

Manager of Investments Derek Hammel

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Core strategic plans unveiled

By Jason F. Siegel
News Editor

The Strategic Planning Committee held a town meeting in the McCullough Social Space last Thursday in an attempt to present its completed work and gather feedback from the College community.

Addressing a sparse crowd of around 15 or 20 people — about one-third the number who had attended a similar meeting earlier in the week — the Committee informally presented an array of information, including a history and overview of the process and its upcoming report, the three "core strategic initiatives" and the mission statement, before fielding a variety of questions from the audience of students, faculty and staff.

President Ronald D. Liebowitz addressed the most important part of the process, the core strategic initiatives. The Committee determined that these initiatives would be the fusion of academic and residential life through the commons system, access to and within the College and competitiveness as an academic institution.

Focusing first on the commons, Liebowitz presented the concerns that the Committee had encountered in the physical expansion of the system. Not only would new buildings present a costly expansion beyond what the College could reasonably afford in the immediate future, he said, but people also do not want to see the open character of the College closed off with new buildings. He reported on suggestions to reduce the size of the student body to 2,150 and the number of commons from five to four, or shifting focus to the "human capital" and programmatic development of the commons while delaying construction for a few years.

Ultimately the Committee de-

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Trick-or-treat

Albert Bitici

Proudly tallying her Halloween loot, a trick-or-treater at the PALANA Halloween party celebrates the holiday in Carr Hall on Friday night. Children from town joined PALANA residents for Halloween festivities.

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MIDDBRIEFS

BY KATHRYN FLAGG

French dept. publishes Montreal travel guide

Taking a trip across the border? The Middlebury College French Department announced last month that it will again publish *"Vous Allez à Montréal,"* its free travel guide to Montreal. The guide, published in French, is designed to guide college and high school French teachers and students, as well as all interested travelers, through Montreal by foot. This year's 23-page booklet is the 28th edition of the guide.

The project originated under the leadership of College French Professor Emeritus Simon Barenbaum. The guidebook was initially devised as a learning tool for Barenbaum's high school French language students, but while at the College he continued the undertaking as a J-Term project. Barenbaum remains responsible for updating and editing the guide.

This year's travel booklet includes a variety of new items, particularly locations along Le Boulevard St. Laurent and La Rue St. Denis. The guide also suggests walking tours of Montreal neighborhoods, hints on good dining and entertainment in the city and an events calendar.

Copies of the guide are available from the College French Department on a first come, first served basis.

News symposium brings CNN exec. to campus

A student-organized symposium brought media experts to campus this week to discuss "Selling the News" in a convention designed to investigate the effect of business on the quality of modern news coverage. On Monday, Frank Sesno '77, former senior vice president at CNN, gave the keynote lecture for the symposium. His talk, titled, "The Modern Media: Changes and Challenges," was delivered in Dana Auditorium.

Students Daphne Lasky '07, Stella Nordhagen '06 and Ben Salkowe '07 organized the symposium in response to the media coverage of last fall's 2004 presidential election. "We realized that we didn't know who was telling us the truth," said Lasky. "There were a bunch of talking heads, but how do you know that the information you're getting is what you need to get?"

Sesno's keynote address was followed on Tuesday by "Making News Profit," a panel discussion featuring Middlebury alumni and news industry insiders. Panelists included Bret Marcus '72, Catherine Herrick '97 and Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial writer for the *Rutland Herald* David Moats. On Wednesday, the symposium sponsored a screening of "Wag the Dog" in McCardell Bicentennial Hall. Friday, in the symposium's concluding remarks, former *Washington Post* Vice President for Strategy Chris Schroeder will present a talk entitled "The New News."

College, town enact winter parking ban

A winter parking ban devised by the town of Middlebury and Middlebury College was imposed Tuesday and will remain in effect until April 1. Under the new ban, all overnight parking on campus is limited to student parking lots between midnight and 8 a.m., and vehicles parked in any faculty or staff parking lots after midnight will be towed. Violations will result in an initial $85 fine, with all subsequent towing offenses costing $100. In the town of Middlebury, parking on town streets and in municipal parking lots is currently prohibited between midnight and 6 a.m.

For some students, the ban — while necessary — presents the possibility of long, cold walks to and from campus. Students living in Fletcher House, a Cook Commons residence located in a residential neighborhood, are no longer allowed to park in their house lot following a series of noise complaints from nearby neighbors. Students who previously parked their automobiles on the street are left searching for viable parking — or snow boots.

CORRECTION

The "Reel Critic" article in the Oct. 27 issue of *The Campus*, attributed to Gabe Broughton, was actually written by Bri Cavallaro. *The Campus* sincerely regrets this error.

EAC explores linguistics minor

Photo Illustration/Vlad Lodoaba

By Chris Knapp
Staff Writer

A committee of Middlebury College faculty members has proposed the creation of a linguistics program at the College, which, if approved, would come into existence beginning with the 2006-2007 academic year.

The College currently offers a number of classes in linguistics which enjoy substantial and growing enrollment. In response to rising demand, a committee, made up of six faculty members with backgrounds in the field, was appointed last spring by the Foreign Language Division to explore different options for a formalized program of linguistic studies. After some deliberation, the committee submitted their proposal to the Educational Affairs Committee (EAC), requesting the establishment of a linguistics minor.

"We want to walk before we run," said Visiting Assistant Professor of German Mark Southern, who sat on the committee. "We gathered a lot of information and took into consideration quite a number of factors, and we all agreed that a minor would be a place to start. We want to begin by enabling undergraduate students at Middlebury to establish a formal background in linguistic studies."

Southern is one of three members of the committee and one of six Middlebury faculty members with a doctorate in linguistics. The College may require a minimal increase in faculty to accommodate the program the committee has proposed.

Already a significant number of students have made linguistics the central focus of their studies at Middlebury through the Independent Scholarship program. Southern estimates that there are currently around 10 independent scholars studying linguistics, compared to three or four when he came to Middlebury just two years ago. Last year, he said, Middlebury undergraduates gave talks at national linguistic conferences.

"It's a very egalitarian field," he said. "The amount we know about language is very small compared to the amount we don't know, which is one of the reasons it's so exciting to study. If you're motivated, its relatively easy to make a contribution."

Southern is optimistic about the program's prospects, citing the immense enthusiasm on the part of students involved. "More than anywhere else I've been," he said, "Middlebury is an institution that pays remarkable attention to the voice of its student body." He hopes the rapidly growing interest in linguistics that the College has seen in the last few years will provide ample justification for the EAC to approve the program.

The continually broadening interest in linguistics is a phenomenon Southern attributes to the multi-faceted appeal of the subject itself. "There are so many approaches to linguistics," he said. "Some people are interested in the brain and cognition, for example, while others study the structure and formation of language itself. The study of linguistics deeply enriches our understanding of areas like literature or culture or history."

He added that "linguistics is a very self-selective field. Typically, the students who are interested don't require much more motivation than their own personal intellectual curiosity." The students at Middlebury fit this description especially well, he said. "The work they've done alone makes a convincing case for the creation of a linguistics program."

Members of the EAC say that they will be considering the program for approval shortly.

Hillel, CF fight anti-Semitism

By Zach Hecht-Leavitt
Staff Writer

On the afternoon of Oct. 24, approximately 15 members of Hillel and the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) joined forces to remove proselytizing flyers aimed at Jews from books in the Main Library and followed it with a discussion over dinner. The flyers were concentrated in books regarding Israel, the Jews and Jewish History.

According to Chaplain Laurie Jordan '79, materials similar to the ones removed last week have been found in the library collection from time to time for at least the past eight years. While some people toss them away without thinking twice, a number have been offended.

No information has risen regarding who placed the flyers in the books, although it is suspected that it is someone from outside the College community. According to Barbara Doyle-Wilch, dean of Library and Information Services (LIS), similar instances have occurred in numerous campus libraries throughout the country.

Steven Bertolino '00, evening circulation supervisor at the Main Library and faculty adviser for IVCF, described one of the two flyers used this time around as a fake $100 bill with Al Gore's face on it, John 3:16 and the words "This is fake but Jesus is the real thing." The second kind was a testimonial from a person who converted to Christianity as an adult, and because his grandfather was Jewish, became involved with an organization of Christians of Jewish background. He encouraged Jewish people reading the bookmark to investigate this organization.

Jordan has long desired a joint Hillel and IVCF event to clean out the books, and was thrilled when it finally came together under the guidance of Hillel Co-President Sarah Lauing '07 and Bertolino. Collaboration is not new to the two organizations, since Hillel and IVCF leaders meet monthly as part of the Religious Life Council and engage in joint programs two or three times a year. For example, during last year's Religious Life Awareness Week, Hillel members attended an IVCF meeting where a speaker talked about the Judaic roots of Christianity and IVCF members attended a Friday night Shabbat service and dinner.

Said Associate Chaplain Rabbi Ira Schiffer of the event, "It was a rewarding experience for me to see the students of IVCF and Hillel join forces in addressing an affront to Middlebury College's sense of respect for differences among students and religious/ethnic groups on campus. These students took a problematic occurrence and made it into a learning experience of the first order, sharing scholarship and fellowship, while building bridges of mutual understanding and friendship."

Students from both organizations valued the event as well, and in particular the dinner discussion, which touched on how the two organizations view each other, what IVCF views as appropriate ways of "spreading the word" and the heterogeneity of belief within the two religions.

Said Lauing of the discussion, "I thought [it] was incredibly valuable and resolved some issues that had been bothering me in terms of differences between our religions. I think it's really important to keep open dialogue about sensitive issues to avoid misunderstanding or fear and distrust." She added, "I feel I gained a much better understanding of the Christian faith as well as of the diversity of religion in general. The personal connection helped me learn more than I could have in a book or lecture."

Matthew Johnstone '07, executive board member of IVCF, said of the event, "There was a lot of camaraderie, and it was a lot of fun to pull these materials out as a group. Something that we're working toward in IVCF in general is reconciliation with groups with whom we've had no history, and it's an exciting time for us because of that."

Ward prize honors Midd writers

Kimberly Bowker

Nominees for the Paul Ward '25 Prize for excellence in first-year writing gathered Friday to accept praise and share excerpts from winning essays.

By Zoey L. Burrows
Staff Writer

On Friday, Oct. 28, Sarah Bray '08 won the 27th presentation of the Paul Ward '25 Prize for excellence in writing by first-year students for her art history essay, "The Erotic Drawings of Augustine Rodin: A Feminist Approach."

This year a record 37 students were nominated. Students are nominated by their instructors, who give exceptional papers to an interdisciplinary panel of faculty judges. These judges read the papers and decide on one winner who receives $500, two runners-up who receive $250 each and four honorable mentions.

Associate Professor of English Kathleen Skubikowski commenced the award presentation and introduced guest speaker David Haward Bain, a lecturer in creative writing. He said that after 19 years at Middlebury, he is quite proud of the accomplishments of the College's writers, whether students or faculty.

Bain spoke of a "bragging shelf" in his office, heavy with past students' work. He proudly listed publications and prizes featuring Middlebury alumni, including the Whiting Award, *Harper's Journal*, the *Christian Science Monitor* and personal novels.

"The bragging shelf has room for more," he told the prize nominees. Of his fellow creative writing faculty he boasted, "We have a solid core and an identity. I think the department has a lot to be proud of."

The professors explained their reason for nominating each first-year student. There were four honorable mentions for essays by sophomores Michael Fletcher, Joseph Giacomelli, Emily Peterson and Jonathan Sherr. Runners-up Alexis Mussomeli and Lauren Sullivan, both '08, both read excerpts from their essays.

Mussomeli's essay entitled "Amidst the Commotion, a Beauty in Simplicity," was written for an art survey class and analyzed two water jugs from the Middlebury College Museum of Art. Eliza Garrison, instructor in history of art and architecture, described the essay as "poetic and visual."

Sullivan's essay, "Distinct Presence: The Survival of Mary the Magdalene's Spirituality in Art," written for a religion course with Visiting Instructor Maria Hatigeorgiou, compared four photos of the Virgin Mary and argued that Mary was one of Jesus' strongest disciples and "the prime comforter." Her professor described her writing style as "beautiful, lucid and graceful," making her forget that she was reading a first-year's work.

Bray read several excerpts from her 20-page research paper written for Professor of History of Art and Architecture John Hunisak's first-year seminar. According to a proud Hunisak, Bray regards herself as an artist and scholar, and "can say exactly what she means."

Bray's central idea was that Rodin's "drawings assert the power of femininity." She argued that Rodin's conception of women was revolutionary because although "women are the protagonists in Rodin's late paintings," they are not portrayed as the objects of male desire.

Bray also touched on Rodin's relationship of mutual respect with his models, which lent strength to his art. Finally, Bray wrote that women's creativity, like Rodin's, leads to new life.

On the selection process, judge Skubikowski remarked that the top 10 essays are ranked separately and then the judges collaborate to narrow them down. She said that "almost always the number one paper stands out unanimously."

"The hardest part," Skubikowski said, is that "we're comparing apples and oranges." She concluded that the prize "privileges writing style, voice and originality."

The Paul W. Ward '25 Memorial Prize was established in 1978 by his widow, Dorothy Ward '28. Paul Ward was a journalist and diplomatic reporter — careers that brought him the Pulitzer Prize and the French Legion of Honor. In her letter of bequest to the College, Mrs. Ward wrote, "During his long career, he emphasized the use of basic English as a writer's most necessary tool."

SGA backs Katrina Relief Week

By Annie Onishi
Staff Writer

On Sunday, Oct. 30, the Student Government Association (SGA) met to discuss Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, grade inflation, lowering the temperature of all buildings on campus and installing printers in residence halls.

Isabel Yordan '07 provided the SGA with an update on the plans for the upcoming Hurricane Katrina Relief Week. Yordan asked the SGA for its support and manpower for the events, which start Nov. 6. The Relief Week will raise funds for Frederick Douglass High School in New Orleans, a public high school that will not be able to open until next January. Events will include a traditional New Orleans jazz funeral remembrance ceremony, concerts, Cajun dining and an auction. The SGA unanimously voted to provide whatever support necessary to make Hurricane Katrina Relief Week successful.

According to SGA President Eli Berman '07.5, the Relief Week is "the biggest issue on the table right now [...] There was very little argument over providing support to this cause." The main goal for the Relief Week will be to generate high student interest and involvement. Berman said, "Student-wide support is a great thing."

Francie Kammeraad '08, chair of the Student Educational Affairs Committee, headed the sub-committee on grade inflation and presented a survey to the SGA for approval. The survey seeks to determine the extent to which Middlebury students are concerned about grade inflation. The initiative was started over the summer at the Bread Loaf faculty meeting, where a six-person committee was assembled to tackle the issue of grade inflation. The unanimous SGA approval was the last step before distribution, and pending some minor changes, the survey will be distributed soon.

Another order of business was a presentation by representatives from the Sunday Night Group, an on-campus coalition of environmental groups. Thomas Hand '05.5, a representative for the coalition, proposed to lower the temperature of buildings on campus by two degrees, which could save the College up to $40,000 annually. The group is seeking student and SGA support for the initiative, and submitted a survey for approval. The SGA questioned the usefulness of a survey and suggested a trial period in its place. Eventually, the survey was sent back to the group for adjustments in the questions' specificity.

Sophomore Senator Max Nardini gave a brief report supporting the installation of printers in the basements of residence halls, and the SGA voted to form an ad hoc committee to take on that issue.

Senators Juana Thomas '09 and Adam Irish '08 then sought and received approval for a resolution to help combat the cost of textbooks to Middlebury students by pressing the faculty to adhere to stricter requisi-

OVERSEAS BRIEFING

BY ANNABELLE CAZES

PARIS—Though the Monoprix — France's most unpleasant and aggravating excuse for an American grocery store — might have everything from Princesse Tam-Tam lingerie to Nutella, the aisles are too narrow, there are always too many people and worst of all, the checkout lines are never-ending. So why, might you ask, do I still patronize such a store if it is so aggravating?

It just so happens that it is the closest place to buy milk and wine near my flat — two essentials, which unfortunately cannot be accessed from the tap, as a friend once pointed out. As I stand at the checkout at the Monoprix, sandwiched between one man buying a ton of deli meats and another lady buying crates of specially formulated infant milk, I patiently wait until my order is rung up, when I pay and pack my bags. As I turn away from the register and head for the door, I notice that the formula lady has blocked my escape route with her shopping cart, making it impossible for me to pass.

Ever so politely, I employ perhaps the most common word in France: "*Pardon*," implying that I would like to pass. She continues to pack her bags as if she has heard nothing. I then clear my throat and repeat, "*Pardon, madame.*" No reply. At this point it has become perfectly clear that she is doing this on purpose.

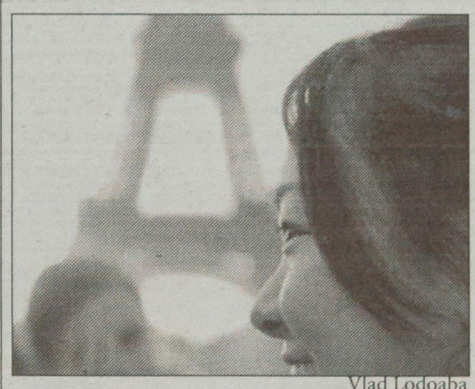
Before I know it, she has reached for a jar of some green puree, turns to her cart, but instead drops the jar on the floor. There is green goo all over my new jeans. She then proceeds to clean her own pants with paper towels, not even taking a second to "*pardon*" herself or offer me a piece of paper. I decided to skedaddle out of there without giving myself a second to get more frustrated.

So why am I sharing this little anecdote, if I seem indifferent to the result?

Well, this is just another example from my daily Parisian life in which I find that French women can be most obnoxious, and in a painfully iritating way. Many of them, though not all, have a way of picking the precisely perfect moment to exhale their deepest puff of cigarette smoke right into your face, be it in a café or just in passing on the street. Others will wander in mindless circles on a busy sidewalk, chatting on their cell phone with cigarette in hand, while at the same time staring down at their latest pair of pointy black leather boots so as to pretend not to notice that you want to pass. Others will chit-chat with their best girlfriend at full volume on the metro, so that you can have the whole story of what happened between Jean and Françoise at Friday night's cocktail party.

And then, of course, there are those who just cannot leave home without their little rat on a leash and must let the dog walk on the other end of the sidewalk so that the only way for you to pass is to either hop over the leash or limbo underneath it.

So, there you have her, *la femme française*. She's a piece of work, but *c'est la vie*.



Vlad Lodoaba

Commons forge new paths in social life

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nance Committee through funding to think in larger terms, in terms of purely social activities and parties."

As the College's social houses have declined in number in recent years and face growing restrictions on large open parties and alcohol, the commons are feeling pressure to become the dominant social force on campus.

Students within the commons administration agree with Lindholm, and some feel the system is already there. Ross Commons will be throwing its annual Viva Ross Vegas/Orange Crush Party on Nov. 18, according to Eric Vos '05, Ross Commons Residential Adviser. "[It] is widely considered the largest on-campus party of the year. Without the commons, I do not think that an acceptable, alternative infrastructure could take on such a task as planning and throwing Viva Ross Vegas," he said.

The Student Government Association Finance Committee, which administers commons budgets, is also pushing for an expanded role for the commons in social events. "This year, the Finance Committee allocated an extra $6,000 to each commons for any single event in order to encourage the commons to work on a grander scale," said Erin Bell '06, Brainerd Commons Council co-chair. The money is what made Brainerd's pool party possible, and each commons has or will pursue its own unique large-scale event.

My sense is the social houses, especially now with more restrictive alcohol regulations, are less of a weekend social enterprise than they once were.

—Karl Lindholm '67
Acting Faculty Head, Brainerd Commons

The new budgetary and programmatic focus on the commons has given commons councils a new and more influential role in campus social life. "Given the level of resistance and downright hostility when I began in 1999, I have been very pleased to see the commons take off, students develop a sense of identity with their commons, and for the commons councils to take a prominent role on campus," said Cook Commons Dean David Edleson.

Lindholm believes that if social houses are truly being weakened, the commons will have no choice but to step up to the plate. "If that's a trend and not just a blip, then it's going to be necessary for the commons to assume a larger role in weekend social events."

A tumultuous past

The current commons system — a well-oiled machine in which students, faculty and staff coordinated a large-scale social endeavor — has only recently found its footing at the College. Programming such as the pool party, the Cook Commons Fall Festival and weekly Atwater and Wonnacott "Fondue Fridays" signal the growing presence of the commons on campus, but these events follow years of resistence to the system.

The commons system as students know it today originated in 1998, but the system itself has a much longer history. While the commons initiative was most fully realized in the late 1990s, the impetus for social and residential change was born out of decades of transition.

"For a long time, certainly in post-World War II Middlebury College, the College was structured socially on a Greek system," said Lindholm. "We had fraternities, and they were pretty strong."

During his own time as a student at the College, said Lindholm, practically all male students belonged to fraternities. "There was no 'fraternity type,'" said Lindholm, because all types belonged to an organization. "The weekend social life was dominated by fraternities."

But, according to Lindholm,the Vietnam era was not kind to the fraternity ethos on campus. The drinking age across the nation dropped to 18, and the College's weekend social life moved downtown. While fraternities survived, the organizations were severely crippled.

"From the late 1960s to when they were eliminated in 1990, 1991," said Lindholm, "the fraternity system was dysfunctional."

The fraternity system reemerged as the center for campus social life after the national drinking age was raised to 21 in 1984. But, as Lindholm pointed out, the heyday of the 1950s was not to be replicated. "It was a different era. The women's movement had happened, and there were objections to all-male organizations ruling campus," he said.

And then, in the early 1990s, one galvanizing event dealt the fraternity system a fatal blow. After a bloodied female mannequin was displayed in the window of a fraternity house one weekend, appalled members of the College community called for the formation of a Task Force on Social Life. The task force ultimately recommended the removal of all-male national social organizations on campus.

Out of this task force also came the recommendation for a commons system — an offshoot of the residential college traditions of Cambridge and Oxford and a reflection of programs at Harvard and Yale. The new system, in its idealized form, was designed to bridge the gap between students, faculty and staff, fostering neighborhoods within the larger community. Since 1991, the College has had a commons system of some form, though the initial program included a sixth, non-residential commons that was eventually abandoned.

President Emeritus John M. McCardell, Jr., particularly championed the system. "The historian in me is naturally disposed to look back over the College's 198 years to find a generalized meaning for today's discussions of student life," he wrote in an open letter on residential life in 1998. "The president in me, however, insists that the view must be forward as well as backward — considerably forward, beyond this year, next year and even beyond the 10-year horizon that often represents the outer boundaries of thought for educational institutions engaged in strategic planning exercises."

It was in 1998 that the commons system began to adopt its most recent form. "It became clear by the late 1990s that we had to really go after [the commons system] in a more serious and aggressive way if it was going to really be the way we organized life on campus," said Lindholm.

Under this imperative, a Residential Life Committee undertook the task in 1998 of formally evaluating the system in place. The Committee identified, in its Enhanced Residential Plan, the "fully articulated commons" as a "system with three components: decentralized dining, faculty presence and continuing membership."

In summary, after a year of planning, the Residential Life Committee recommended that the College pursue a dining hall for each commons, housing for faculty heads and decentralized organization of the Dean of Students office. Each commons was granted an individual dean and administrative team, first-year seminars were associated with the system, and, for the first time, room draw was restructured with the commons as the organizing force.

Under this new umbrella of organization, the College commissioned the construction of Atwater and Ross Commons — the first, and currently only, fully realized commons. As this infrastructure began to come online, however, student dissatisfaction with the system reared its head. Housing inequities between commons have, for the duration of the commons' early years, proven the most contentious issue among students.

Looking forward

In meetings and updates on the College's strategic planning process, it is becoming increasingly clear that the immediate future of the commons will be in expanding programming and social events. While commons vary in their infrastructural improvement needs, many commons administrators believe the focus on programming could be beneficial.

In some ways, the new buildings have clouded the underlying purpose of the commons and have created additional equity concerns, according to Edleson. "Cook, for example, has never gotten new housing or dining, and yet we've done a good job of building a sense of community and making the commons work as envisioned. For most of us who work in the commons, it is not about buildings, but about people and community," he added.

"Students frustrated by their housing or dining situation should learn how to accept and be thankful for what they have, because dorms and dining halls will always be a mainstay at any institution of higher learning," said Vos. "However, it is the programming and social life that can truly set us apart."

Moving forward to expand commons programming, however, will likely introduce new controversies. The Brainerd pool party, for example, garnered significant criticism for its cost and high energy consumption. In addition, while the event was well attended, it was entirely substance-free and far different from the large "basement" parties of the social houses. Lindholm acknowledged that niche was something the commons would likely never be able to fill.

While it may still be a while before the commons are firmly entrenched on all fronts, the system has "Making News Profit made tremendous progress. "I do believe the commons are beginning to take the role they were intended to take, and they are certainly becoming more accepted," said Edleson.

"It has taken time to work out the kinks, so to speak, but I genuinely believe that the people who are working for the success of the commons will continue to strive for the content of everyone," said Vos. "I'm beginning to wonder what life was like before the commons system came to pass because it seems as though the situation is so much better, from an administrative standpoint, now that we're pushing for decentralization."

Investure takes reins of College endowment

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is confident that the new partnership will generate significant financial gains for the College. He remarked, "We expect that this organizing structure will maximize endowment performance due to Investure's staff expertise, access to top-tier managers and specific experience and demonstrated success in selecting and investing with managers in alternative asset classes, such as real estate, private equity and hedge funds."

The goal of Investure is to function as a full-service, off-site endowment-management office. For smaller endowments of colleges like Middlebury, there are significant advantages to hiring a boutique firm like Investure. It is difficult to retain a chief investment officer in such a remote area of the country, so this specialized firm facilitates continuity and can pay more attention to its endowment. Moreover, as smaller institutions are beginning to seek alternative investments with the allure of bigger returns, it has become critical that their assets be overseen by somebody with appropriate expertise.

Before the partnership was established, the College relied on the Investment Committee to provide a foundation of resources that ensured the education of future students received as much support from the College's endowment as the education of current students. Like most other college and university endowments, Middlebury's Investment Committee partnered with several different external firms and asset managers, each specializing in a certain investment area, to invest the College's Associated Trust Fund (ATF) portfolio, a commingled pool of individual endowment funds. The College's endowment totaled approximately $765 million as of June 30, 2005, 91 percent of which was invested in the ATF.

The long-term success of the endowment has been very strong, having generated net annualized returns of 11.6, 12.6, 5.8 and 11 percent for the one-, three-, five- and 10-year periods that ended June 30, 2005. "It cannot be overly emphasized that the focus is on *long-term* investment performance," stressed Hammel. "The portfolio has been carefully constructed and appropriately diversified so that over the long term, the College has a very high likelihood of achieving its goals, knowing full well that we will have to weather down some years along the way, like we saw from 2000 to 2003."

Current annual distributions from the endowment fund approximate $45 million, enabling the College to provide an effective and valuable educational experience for students. Nonetheless, as the endowment continues to grow and college and university investment strategies have become more complex, the Investment Committee deemed it necessary to employ the expertise of Investure in order to benefit from more comprehensive investment opportunities and better informed financial decisions.

Handy herself has been especially successful in investing in hedge funds, an area to which the College will most likely pay more attention in the future. Hedge funds are loosely regulated private-investment partnerships. The strategic advantage employed by these funds lies in selling short, a technique in which fund managers borrow stocks and bet that they will decline in value. If the price of shares decreases in value, the managers replace the borrowed stocks at the lower price, thus gaining the difference.

Although there is a calculated risk in investing in hedge funds, some are considerably less volatile than others, and managers with proven expertise, like Handy, can earn higher returns with such funds when markets are down than with other investments.

Furthermore, in its partnership with Investure, the College will not cede any financial authority, but rather will gain the advice and knowledge of a more experienced and informed financial adviser. The Investment Committee still maintains full oversight and discretion on the endowment portfolio.

"Investure is a partner on whom we will rely to provide ideas for new investments, monitor existing manager relationships, make suggestions regarding asset allocation and perform certain reporting and accounting duties related to the portfolio," said Hammel. "Although the partnership with Investure is only just months old, things are off to a great start in terms of process, oversight and investment performance."

Planning Committee looks ahead

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cided that the latter option would be the most appropriate. A student body of fewer than 2,350 could not financially sustain operations, and having four commons was strongly opposed by the deans as they felt it would change the very feeling of the commons system. Increasing the human capital, however, especially programmatic development, would be economically feasible in the near future.

Liebowitz said that the Committee had considered the possibility of allowing seniors to have an open draw until senior housing was equal in all five commons. No definitive answer to the suggestion was given.

Discussion of access to the College's resources focused primarily on financial aid and student-faculty interaction. The Committee hopes to rework the financial aid package formula with an immediate goal of providing an extra $1,000 in grants rather than loans in each financial aid package, ultimately making Middlebury a more attractive school to economically disadvantaged students. It also hopes to set the goal of reducing the student-faculty ratio from 11:1 to 8.7:1, which would provide faculty members with more time to dedicate to each student.

The issue of competitiveness as an academic institution dealt principally with curricular growth and senior work. An expanded faculty, said Liebowitz, should bring with it a growth in the curriculum. Though there was no speculation as to what might be added, it would most likely be either new departments or intradepartmental expansion of coverage. The Committee also favored requiring senior independent work as a graduation requirement, calling it a capstone achievement of the Middlebury academic work ethic. In addition, Associate Professor of Computer Science Amy Briggs discussed a reevaluation of the College's distribution requirements, with Liebowitz adding that there may also be a new lab science requirement given science's increasingly key role in the world's development.

Beyond the core strategic initiatives were other important parts of the report. After an introductory statement from Dean of Planning John Emerson, Stewart Professor of English and Environmental Studies John Elder presented the most recent draft of the mission statement. Some of the main aspects the Committee has tried to convey in the statement are the links between academic and residential life, the unique location of Middlebury in rural Vermont and the importance of internationalism to the College. According to an e-mail message from Emerson, the new draft will likely appear on the College Web site in the near future.

Assistant Director of the Rohatyn Center for International Affairs Charlotte Tate addressed the role of people and human capital at Middlebury. She discussed the importance of faculty and staff development to the maintenance of excellence in everthing the College does. Tate also emphasized the need to "be a good neighbor" to the town. She commented briefly on the importance of optimizing the College's financial resources to make these things possible.

Vlad Lodoaba

Liebowitz fielded questions from students at a town meeting in McCullough Social Space last Thursday following a presentation from the College's Strategic Planning Committee.

After the presentation, the Committee fielded questions from the audience and Liebowitz responded, occasionally helped by other members of the Committee. People challenged many of the ideas introduced, and in all cases the Committee had already considered the perspectives of the audience members.

One question that came up that had not appeared to be a concern in any task force report was the dim lighting on campus, which caused many students who grew up in well-lit urban areas to feel unsafe. Planning Committee member J.S. Woodward '06 suggested that the students alert Facilities Management to the problem, as it is often unaware of expired bulbs. Liebowitz reminded the audience that there has long been a semi-annual night tour of the campus to identify the poorly lit spots on campus, which ushered in the blue lights.

Assistant Professor of Theatre Claudio Medeiros '90 inquired about the role of the arts in Middlebury's future. Emerson responded by noting that the Committee for Art in Public Places was one of the Task Forces in the spring, and said that the arts would fit in with the themes of the process. This was evident in Elder's earlier statement that a mandatory thesis was not necessarily the most appropriate manifestation of independent senior work for all departments, so each department would determine the form of the project.

After the meeting, Emerson and Liebowitz said they were satisfied with the proceedings. Emerson praised the students in attendance, and Liebowitz, acknowledging that it was a busy time of year, was disappointed that more students had not shown up. He had also wanted to hear student opinions about the commons and said, "Though the infrastructure of the commons system is essential to provide the kinds of interaction to which we aspire, it is, first and foremost about relationships and what those relationships lead to."

public safety log

OCTOBER 26, 2005 TO OCTOBER 31, 2005

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
10/26/2005	Unknown	Theft	Bicycle	Starr	No Suspects
10/26/05	Unknown	Theft	Bicycle	Voter	No Suspects
10/28/05	9:00 p.m.	Theft	Shower Curtains	Ross	Referred to Commons Dean
10/29/05	1:26 a.m.	Assault	Battery	Outside	Open
10/29/05	1:30 a.m.	Vandalism	Door	Le Chateau	No Suspects
10/29/05	11:24 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by Minor	Coffrin	Referred to Commons Dean
10/29/05	10:45 p.m.	Vandalism	Window	Battell	No Suspects
10/30/05	1:52 a.m.	Assault	Not Applicable	Johnson	MPD
10/30/05	12:50 a.m.	Vandalism	Lights	Hadley	No Suspects
10/30/05	11:00 p.m.	Theft	Bicycle	Hepburn	No Suspects
10/30/05	10:41 p.m.	Vandalism	Exit Signs	Atwater	No Suspects
10/30/05	Unknown	Theft	Bicycle	Gifford	No Suspects
10/31/05	1:45 a.m.	Vandalism	Bicycle	Forest	Open
10/31/05	1:27 a.m.	Vandalism	Garbage Can and Bicycle	Battell	Referred to Commons Dean

COLLEGE SHORTS

BY JULIE ELLENBERGER, JASON F. SIEGEL & DANIEL L. J. PHILLIPS

Students targeted in recording suit

Last week, yet another set of lawsuits was brought against 745 college students by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for the illegal downloading of music on peer to peer networks. The names of these students remain unknown because the RIAA can only identify Internet Protocol addresses. However, under subpoena, the universities would be forced to release their actual identities.

Kara Jansons, a Boston University student sued last spring by the RIAA, expressed her concern for the unawareness of most students about the danger of downloading music illegally, saying "I don't think that people really know what's going on... A lot of people just assume that 'It's never going to happen to me, so why should I stop?'"

The RIAA argues that as a result of the illegal downloading of music, consumers, honest retailers, record companies and the artists all lose — they estimate that the recording industry loses around $4.2 billion each year as a result of piracy. This most recent wave of lawsuits targeted 17 universities, including Columbia, Harvard and MIT.

— U-Wire

Severance deal rouses student ire

A recent $3.7 million severance package for Benjamin Ladner, departing president of American University, has students, faculty and alumni up in arms, causing them to take their case to Congress to request the replacement of the board of trustees.

The federal government maintains some oversight of the university since it granted the charter more than a century ago, including the ability to replace board members.

Kyle Taylor, president of the student government, decried the actions of the board that he maintains smacks of corruption. "Please do not let American University set a precedent for Enron-style corporate crime within higher education," he said.

In an internal audit, Ladner had been found to have spent lavishly. Though he must repay $125,000 and pay taxes on nearly $400,000, he still receives the vast majority of the settlement.

In response, several board members stepped down, refusing to serve with a majority who supported the deal.

— NYTimes.com

FCC amends Act

The Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act of 1994 was recently amended to require any company or organization that provides Internet access to update its network in order to ensure that the FBI can obtain easy surveillance access for counterterrorism purposes. Most colleges and universities across the country provide Internet access, and all of the technological changes made in compliance with the new Act must be carried out entirely at the institution's expense.

The Federal Communications Commission changed the Act in response to a growing number of voice communications sent over the Internet.

According to a senior technology director at the University of Pennsylvania, institutions would have to comply within 18 months, but it is unclear precisely how colleges and universities would have to enhance their networks.

— The Daily Pennsylvanian

localnews

6
VERMONTERS HEAT UP TO HELP OUT
VERMONT EMT VOLUNTEERS FOR RITA VICTIMS

7
TRAILING AROUND MIDDLEBURY
TAM MAKES FOR EASY NATURE ACCESS AROUND TOWN

7
FREE BEER AT THE GRILLE COMES AT A PRICE
TOWN BARS UPSET BY GRILLE'S LUCRATIVE OFFER

8
WINTER'S EARLY ARRIVAL PUTS THE LIGHTS OUT
VERMONTERS LOSE ELECTRICITY AS SNOW BRINGS POWER LINES DOWN

Vermonters 'cowboy up' to Rita

Courtesy

Posing amidst the rubble of a building destroyed in the wake of Rita, Vermonters had a positive experience helping to rehabilitate the Lonestar State.

By Rachel Durfee
Staff Writer

In the wake of two of the most destructive hurricanes this nation has witnessed, a group of volunteers from the Vergennes Volunteer Rescue and Middlebury Ambulance squads recruited by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) responded to a nation-wide call for outside support.

Immediately following Hurricane Katrina's turbulent arrival in early September 2005, FEMA sent out a national volunteer list in order to bring medical help to devastated regions. Although Vergennes Volunteer Rescue team member and Middlebury graduate Jen Sisemoore '03.5 signed up without delay, neither she nor any of the Vergennes volunteers were deployed until a few weeks later, when Hurricane Rita plowed through coastal towns in Southeast Texas and Louisiana on Sept. 24.

Rita hit less populated towns and was therefore not as destructive as Katrina. Nonetheless, Rita still caused significant property damage, massive power outages and a large water shortage in Southeast Texas and up the Texas-Louisiana boarder. In response, FEMA sent out another national request for ambulances. Six hours later, Vergennes Rescue Squad members Ann Rivers and Brian Goodyear were on the road to Texas.

The two drove the Vergennes ambulance over 1800 miles to Houston, Texas where they met with hundreds of other volunteers from all over the country in the Reliant Center — a massive arena previously occupied by New Orleans refugees and currently serving as the FEMA staging center for all Rita relief operations. The volunteer organizations agreed to a 30-day agreement and Vergennes sent three deployments over the course of the one month period.

On Oct. 3, roughly two weeks after Rivers and Goodyear arrived in Houston, fellow Vermonters Sisemoore and Middlebury Ambulance volunteers Dave Fuller and Lisa Smith flew to Texas to join them. Rivers and Goodyear were involved primarily in emergency evacuations. But by the time Sisemoore, volunteers were most needed to deal with the medical needs of hurricane evacuees.

After meeting briefly with Rivers and Goodyear in Houston, Sisemoore, Fuller and Smith went directly to the rural town of Center, Texas — a town with a population of about 6,000 now serving as the gathering place for hundreds of displaced evacuees. With such a sudden population increase, Center was understaffed and unprepared to respond to the high number of emergency calls.

The Vergennes Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) spent five days alongside Texas EMTs and paramedics as well as volunteers from Mad River Valley, Vt. responding to 911 calls and dealing with various medical emergencies, similar their duties in New England. Sisemoore was impressed by the tireless efforts of her peers, especially the amount of support provided by native Texans. "The Texas EMTs were working so hard from day one; they had such a great attitude and were warm, friendly and wonderful," said Sisemoore.

Though overall it was a smooth transition from the North down to the South, Sisemore admits that moving from one rural setting to another caused a bit of culture shock. The constant presence of conspicuous poverty in certain affected areas, the isolation of Center and the unfamiliar sound of a Texas accent, especially the overwhelming use of "y'all", contributed to the sometimes uncomfortable feeling of culture shock a New Englander may experience on their first trip to "real rural Texas."

Unsure of what conditions would be like in Texas, family and friends had sent Sisemore off with a two-week supply of Power Bars. But food turned out to be the least of Sisemoore's worries, as locals treated volunteers to real Texan barbecue every night.

After five days in Center the Vergennes crew drove south to Beaumont's Ford Center hockey arena where FEMA, the Red Cross and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) volunteers were set up. Describing the scene, Sisemore said that "Cots were shoulder-to-shoulder and the parking lot outside was full of ambulances from all over the country. You definitely got to know the other volunteers."

Every morning volunteers gathered and received assignments for the day. Typical duties included helping nursing home patients who still needed to be evacuated and tending to hospital patients. Hospitals in Beaumont were forced to close due to power outages, leaving only the basic emergency rooms open. Thus volunteer units set up clinics to help treat those in need of medical attention and, if necessary, the volunteers would transport patients via ambulance to the closest working hospital, sometimes a six-hour drive from Beaumont.

The volunteers were professional and prepared and received support not only in Texas but back at home as well. The Vergennes group had three conference calls a day with the Vermont EMS office to report on conditions, logistics and address any needs or concerns. Overall, Sisemoore felt completely safe and well provided for in Beaumont. She believes that going to New Orleans for Katrina relief would probably have been a much more distressing experience and that the less calamitous consequences of Rita along with the positive attitudes she was surrounded with in Texas made the experience "really fun."

The cooperative nature of the relief effort was the most moving and encouraging aspect of Sisemoore's time in Texas. "It was really interesting working with paramedics from bigger cities." As an EMT, Sisemoore was not exposed to the greatest hardships — those of the people that had lost their homes and businesses — but says the damage was still very apparent. "It was strange," she said, "You would be walking along and see a normal house, normal house and then a house with the roof completely blown off."

After seeing Katrina on TV and in the paper, it was "surreal to see the damage [of Rita] first-hand." However her general impression was that people were working hard to get back on their feet, and in her capacity as an EMT Sisemoore felt that she had contributed to those efforts, though recognizes that there are still many issues to be dealt with that do not have to do with medicine.

Cots were shoulder-to-shoulder and the parking lot was full of ambulances from all over the country.
— EMT Jen Sisemoore

Now back in Vermont, the Vergennes volunteers describe their trip as an overall positive experience with some very enjoyable moments. Sisemoore characterizes local citizens as "really appreciative," grinning as she sports a cap from a Texas refinery, a thank-you gift for her efforts with the company. "The best thing I came back with was a feeling of cooperation," she said. "Bringing in people from all over the country and having them work so well together." She added, "It was the people that made it a really good experience."

Pub Night draws town skepticism

By Christine Fisher
Staff Writer

"There's no such thing as a free lunch, let alone free beer."

The mention of "free" beer and pizza offered at Middlebury Campus Activity Board (MCAB)-sponsored Pub Nights in a Sept. 29 *Middlebury Campus* article raised the eyebrows of town officials on the grounds that Vermont state law prohibits any licensed establishment from giving away alcohol.

According to an article published on Oct. 20 in the *Addison Independent*, John Tenny, the chairman of the Board of Selectmen, received a call about The Grille's program from a local restaurant owner concerned that by serving free alcohol, local businesses may lose customers. In response, Tenny wrote an e-mail to Dean of the College Tim Spears. "At a time when the nation as a whole is recognizing the problems of excessive drinking and losing patience with alcohol-related abuse, I would hope that the College would adopt a more constructive leadership role on this issue," said Tenny.

However, it should be clarified that the Otter Creek ales, pizza sticks and other goodies provided at these weekly pub nights are not actually free. Although they are made available to students free of charge, they are still being paid for by someone; like any other catered event on campus, the party host — MCAB in this case — foots the bill.

Steve Reigle, manager of The Grille, explained the process: when students come to Pub Night and wish to drink, they are issued a wristband — purchased by MCAB — with a two-drink limit. The same goes for students who are not drinking. All food items, coffees and other non-alcoholic beverages are also covered by MCAB money. However, because the MCAB account is largely funded by the student activity fee that every Middlebury College student must pay at the beginning of each new school year, only students are allowed to attend Pub Night.

I would hope that the College would adopt a more constructive leadership role on this issue.
—John Tenny

Pub Nights, which are now held weekly at The Grille, began last year and have grown in popularity ever since with the help of Jessica VanWagenen and Brooke Lenci, both '06. So far this year, each event has attracted anywhere from 200-300 library-weary students, seniors and underclassmen alike, all eager to partake in the best study break campus has to offer.

VanWagenen and Lenci believe that Pub Night's appeal to a wide segment of the student body is perhaps one of its greatest accomplishments because many campus events tend to be very class-stratified.

"Brooke and I are very pleased that The Grille has become a social space on campus, and we hope that we can continue this tradition throughout the year by booking good bands and attracting as many students as possible. We have been particularly pleased that every week we've drawn from all four classes on campus," VanWagenen said.

Spears echoed these sentiments, as he too seemed to appreciate the importance of Pub Night as a safe, fun and unifying on-campus social option. He believes the atmosphere of Pub Night, including its location in The Grille and the availability of food, creates an environment conducive to responsible drinking.

The Nov. 3 Pub Night will feature Speechwriters LLC. The on-campus band of J. Brito and Pat Phillips, both '06, will perform on Nov. 10, a night made complete with Harpoon UFO on tap and free giveaways of 200 pint glasses.

Student's service trails along TAM

By Jennifer Shapland
Staff Writer

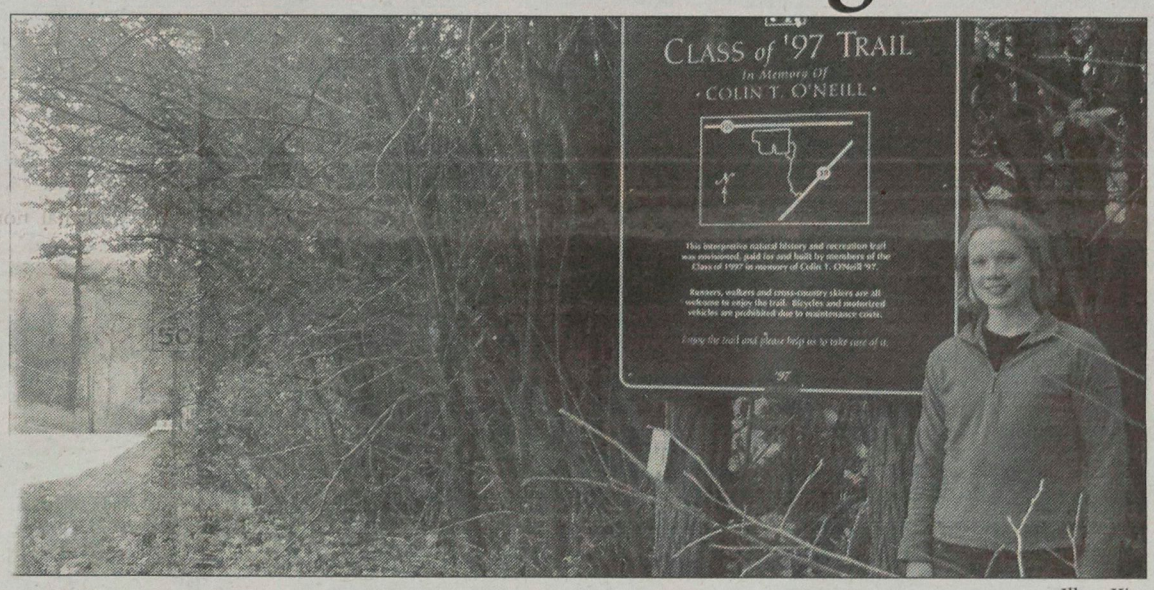
Erica Goodman '06 was named Middlebury Area Land Trust (MALT) volunteer of the year for her work to maintain one of the area's prized recreational assets.

The Trail Around Middlebury (TAM) is a great link between the town, the College and the countryside and is open to the public year-round for anyone who wants to spend an afternoon the Thoreau way.

The TAM, as the trail's frequent users call it, covers 16 miles through the towns of Cornwall, Middlebury, New Haven and Weybridge. It was built in the 1990s when several already-existing trails were connected to form a complete loop. One of the visionaries behind this project was John Derrick, a member of the Middlebury community who continues to serve as a volunteer with MALT. The TAM is currently maintained by the efforts of MALT, the nonprofit organization that originally conceived it.

Extending across both public and private land, the survival of the TAM depends on the continued involvement of MALT as well as on generous contributions of private landowners willing to donate or "lend" a stretch of their property to the cause. The TAM follows some city streets, crosses parks and farm fields, bridges Otter Creek twice and also passes over parts of Middlebury College.

On campus, a section of the TAM is commonly known as "the cross-country trail," officially as the Colin O'Neil Class of '97 Trail. The winding trail looks around the Ralph Myhre Golf Course and connects to the main TAM loop. Many Middlebury townspeople and college students spend their free time on the trail everyday. Walkers, runners, hikers, bikers and, in the colder months, cross country skiers and snowshoers alike enjoy this accessible means of connecting with their local environment.



Ilhan Kim

Standing alongside a trailhead for the TAM loop, Erica Goodman '06 helped maintain the town's public trail.

But in order for the greater Middlebury community to continue enjoying this public trail, maintenance is crucial. John Derrick and MALT solicit the help of volunteers in the community and at the college for trail maintenance. Though many students here have never heard of the TAM, one student in particular became so involved in its survival during her last three years at Middlebury that she was recently named the MALT Volunteer of the Year.

Goodman started off her Middlebury College experience in the same fashion as a large percentage of her class: she went on a Middlebury Outdoor Orientation (MOO) trip. Spending three days on a volunteer service trip first introduced her to the TAM and trail maintenance and left a considerable impression on her, as well as providing her with MALT contacts John Derrick and Johno Chapin. Of her involvement with the trail, Goodman said, "We are so lucky to have places like this that make it so easy to enjoy the outdoors."

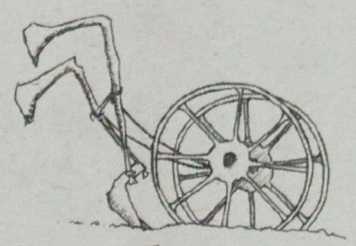
She went on to help guide future MOO volunteer service trips because she was so familiar with the TAM and the surrounding area. Later, Goodman became the co-chair of the Volunteer Service Organization and had the responsibility of finding work sites for community service-minded students to put in hours each week. Her contacts with Derrick and Chapin helped bring Middlebury student volunteers to the TAM for about three to four workdays each fall and spring for trail-clearing, rerouting, gravel and mulch-spreading and branch-pruning. Her involvement has also led to the organization of the TAM Team Trek (T3), a fundraiser for MALT that occurs in the fall in which groups of students form teams to run sections of the trail. In addition, Goodman leads Wildflower Walks on the trail for those inclined to learn more about native species.

Goodman was both surprised and honored by her recent recognition as the Volunteer of the Year from MALT. Because of her efforts with the volunteer service organization, many Middlebury students have been able to spend a few afternoons taking care of the TAM. Recently, the men's cross-country team took a few hours to help clear the very trail they run on so frequently, and Goodman was glad to see them exhibiting the same positive reaction she feels when she has a hand in the upkeep of such a valued asset to the local community.

"There are many other ways to volunteer and it is always great to give money to a worthy organization," said Goodman. "But sometimes, especially on perfect fall afternoons like these, working at the trail is a welcome escape from my desk for some hands-on work." Goodman hopes to continue spreading the good word about the TAM to encourage not only volunteering but also for everyone — students, newcomers and townsfolk alike — to get out and enjoy the trail.

For many new Middlebury students, the first glimpse of the breathtaking countryside surrounding the campus nestled in the mountains is enough to be glad to call the College home for the next four years. But as each day passes, students become more accustomed to viewing the striking landscape right outside the window. Compared to those first days on campus when students were beginning to imagine encounters with the backyard wilderness that they thought would be part and parcel of the Middlebury experience, many students feel they have lost that initial curiosity and incentive to explore our rural wonderland.

Luckily, there is an accessible way to get up close and personal with the local environment and perhaps rediscover the wonder of nature experienced the first time to visit Middlebury.



Rural Banter

BY ERICA GOODMAN

If you don't know where you are, you don't know who you are.
— Wendall Berry

The sun has (briefly) emerged after weeks of hiding dormant behind layers of rain and clouds.

A few maples and oak have maintained their colorful leaves but unfortunately, the peak of fall foliage has passed us by, washed away by the dreary days.

It is sad to think that the long-awaited period of luminous color will not return for another year.

And yet there is still a certain beauty in the transitory stage as we wait for snow to cover the lowlands.

Drive beyond the Middlebury College campus, past the greystone buildings and over the hill on Route 125.

About three miles west of town, the flooding of Otter Creek has created a temporary pond. Flooded fields halt tractor traversal: A headache for the farmer, an aquatic aesthetic for the Sunday driver.

With these fresh pools, we are offered a glimpse into a private window of Mother Nature.

Farm fields provide food in the form of waste grains and green grasses, attracting Canadian and snow geese that need to rest their weary wings in the flood's cool waters.

Although we know not their true destination, we are privy to a moment in their passage, experiencing a fragment of the journey on which they embark.

To the west of Middlebury are the Adirondack peaks and to the east the Green Mountains envelope the valley.

An early snow has left the tops covered with the beginnings of a long winter's snow. Bare deciduous trees, like silver needles stuck into the earth, point straight to the sky.

They line the roadways, serving as a barrier to the natural world. Only when driving by when the sun is just right are we allowed to see the kaleidoscope of light behind their slender trunks.

The fall has a particular scent as well. Dull browns blanket the landscape in their somber bereavement, the mourning over summer's passage and the vitality of greenery lost to sneaky midnight frosts.

This decomposition of fallen leaves and wilted flowers differs in scent from the perfume of springtime and yet it holds a peculiar aroma of freshness.

In the midst of autumn's decay, the sweet scent of damp leaves and biting breezes, we remember that life will emerge again.

There is nothing more humbling than to take time to witness nature's cycle of replenishment. The winds, the rains, the sun and the earth all hold the power to bring destruction.

And with enough patience, the land will return anew.

THE LOCAL FLAVOR

By Rachel Durfee, Francesca Filippelli and CC Ragan

Staff Writers

Looking to avoid that awkward morning-after confrontation in the dining hall? Tired of holding your cumbersome tray as you wait for your made-to-order Ross omelet? Turned off by the prospects of yet another cup of acidic "Central Highlands Brew"? Might we suggest Sunday brunch at Tully and Marie's — it's a tasty option if you're looking to get off campus and away from the usual choices of Ross and Atwater. Located within walking distance of campus (at least while the nice weather lasts) and situated right on Otter Creek, the restaurant offers a pleasant atmosphere for entertaining parents or just hanging out with friends.

Brunch starts at 10:30 a.m., so don't expect to be served any earlier (though we imagine most students won't have this problem on a typical Sunday morning). If you do manage to crawl out of bed early though, you won't be alone — other hungry breakfast goers were crowding the stairs before the doors even opened. Promptly at 10:30 the manager unlocked the door, posted the delectable menu and warmly invited us in.

The restaurant can handle large parties, so don't hesitate to bring your whole hall. The staff is very accommodating and will find the necessary number of chairs for your party, though we do recommend a reservation. Most tables on the main and upper levels have a view of the creek, and during the summer months the outside deck is open to diners. The décor is somewhat reminiscent of an old-fashioned diner, with a bright color scheme and colorful paintings and mirrors lining the walls.

The menu offers a variety of eggs, pancakes and other common breakfast dishes at reasonable prices. The Eggs Any Style ($4.95), which includes two eggs (any style), toast and hash browns is a perfect option if you are looking for a satisfying brunch on the lighter side. If Saturday night has left you with a large appetite we suggest the Huevos Rancheros: eggs any style on crisp corn tortillas, with black beans, jack cheese and hot salsa for $6.95. It's a zesty plate that's even big enough to share, though we recommend a serving of home fries on the side to satisfy starchy cravings. For a taste north of the border, the Smoked Salmon Benedict ($8.50) rules supreme. The creative mix of poached eggs and smoked salmon in a hollandaise sauce is sophisticated, yet pleasing. Fluffy and warm, the homemade English muffins are the best part. If eggs aren't what you crave on a Sunday morning, Tully and Marie's offers blueberry, pecan and buttermilk pancakes ($4.95-$5.25) and other more lunch-like fare.

To quench your thirst and re-hydrate, the fresh-squeezed orange juice beats Proctor's watered down concentrate disguised as juice anytime, although the small might leave you longing for more. Since there's only a dollar price difference, we'd suggest opting for the larger size. We unanimously decided that the Bloody Mary (only $3.00!) had quite a kick. For the caffeine addicts in the group, the waitress kept the coffee flowing. We chose the featured brew, Tres Mariposas, produced by Julia Alverez's coffee farm.

At the end of the meal we were satisfied and, after putting off our work long enough, we were ready for the walk back to campus and straight to the library. Tully and Marie's is a tasty Sunday option and definitely worth the trek into town. Best of all, you can eat with a conscience (even if you haven't completely regained consciousness) — the restaurant is part of the Vermont Local Farms network that supports local producers and suppliers. Even the artwork adorning the walls is created by local artists and is for sale. Check out the price list by the bar area near the entrance for more information. Though we're normally Ross brunch die-hards, Tully and Marie's proved easy on the wallet and we'll certainly be back again soon.

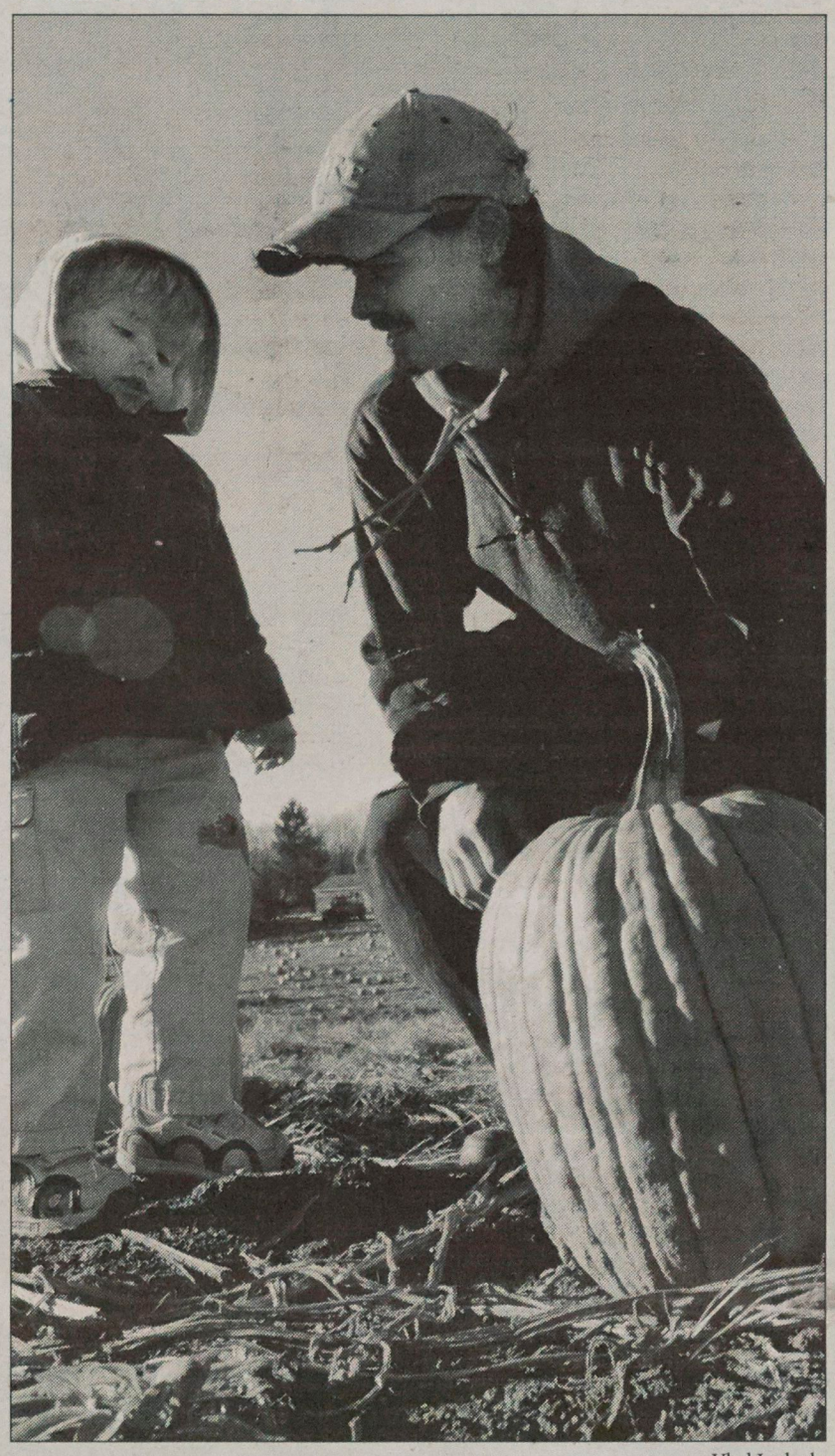
Restaurant: Tully and Marie's

Location: 7 Bakery Lane, Middlebury, Vt.

Hours: Brunch: Sun. 10:30 - 3

Our Reviewers Recommend:
Smoked Salmon Benedict
Huevos Rancheros
Bloody Mary

THE PUMPKIN KING



Vlad Lodoaba

Picking the perfect Halloween pumpkin, Jeremy Yarosz and his son Zachery, from N. Chittenden Vt. do some Halloween shopping near Brandon last Saturday. Zach will be turning three this week.

Snowfall turns the lights out on residents

By Andrea Glaessner

Local News Editor

Last Tuesday, instead of the daily dose of rain that had been dousing the Northeast Region for the past two weeks, the skies opened up and surprised Vermonters with an unseasonably early snowstorm. Though Middlebury residents only saw flurries, which melted before they even saw the sun, snow accumulated to as much as two feet in areas of Vermont with a higher elevation.

The snowstorm was a bit out of the ordinary for a typical fall according to weather prediction experts. Meteorologist Chris Bouchard explained, "It's pretty unusual to see a snowfall as large and early as this one."

As far as interpreting the random snowstorm to be an indication of a particularly frigid winter, he noted that "it's just not possible to make that kind of prediction, scientifically."

Despite the seemingly mild effect of the storm here in Middlebury, other rural Vermont residents felt the effects of the storm to a greater extent, not just in the large quantity of snowfall, but also in the loss of electricity.

According to *The Addison Independent*, "Nearly 40,000 customers of Central Vermont Public Service Corp. — including more than 8,000 in Addison County — lost power."

Thankfully, power was finally restored to all residents by the end of last weekend.

Yet power was not restored fast enough to avoid affecting schools. *The Addison Independent* reported that the lack of power prompted the Addison Northeast Supervisory Union and the Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union to close all the schools in their respective districts on Wednesday and that Ripton Elementary School opened late for the same reason.

Due to the early arrival of the storm, many trees were still full of foliage. Thus the trees were exceptionally heavy when they fell, covered in thick snow, onto power lines in the blustering storm.

The Independent reported that the storm caused the worst fall snow storm damage the CVPS company has seen since October of 1987, when 25,000 customers lost service in an early season snowfall.

For many Vermonters, the early snowfall was an ominous reminder of the approaching end of fall. Residents already felt cheated by the seemingly shortened version of the spectacular changing of the leaves due to the incessant rainfall these past few weeks. Jennifer Williams, '08 was disappointed to miss out on an elongated fall saying, "I wanted to play in the leaves more and it just wouldn't stop raining. Nobody can really enjoy fall indoors the whole time."

Kimberly Bowker

But we cannot entirely blame the heavy rainstorms for the shortened foliage season. According to Bouchard, "Foliage depends on sun angle. [The short season] mostly had to do with the fact that it was so warm this month that it took awhile for the leaves to start changing. We didn't have cool nights in which the leaves could transform until the middle of this month." Inevitably, according to Bouchard all the leaves changed at once a lot quicker than usual and the big winds that accompany increment weather compounded the issue, ripping leaves off many trees almost as soon as they changed.

Overall these weather patterns are normal systems in the changing of the seasons, a quality of Vermont that all residents cherish, no matter how extreme the weather changes are.

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opinions

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Editorial

Safety should be top priority for alcohol policy reform

For better or for worse, alcohol has become inextricably linked with college social life, and the weekend scene at Middlebury is no exception.

Because students will continue to drink regardless of policy, it is imperative that the College and local liquor inspector focus on safety and not repression of social drinking.

Pub night at The Grille is a step in the right direction for the campus social scene because students of legal age are allowed to drink in a social yet controlled environment, while under-age students are still welcome to socialize in the same space. Town venders need not fear the school's newest Middlebury College Activities Board-funded Thursday night tradition, however. Beer is offered in sufficiently limited quantities so that legal-aged students who grab a beer at Pub Night are in fact more likely to drop a few dollars at Two Brothers' or Angela's following Pub Night's 10:30 p.m. closing time.

Though the new liquor inspector cannot be faulted for doing his job, the guest list party stipulation currently placed on social houses has had severely detrimental effects in attempting to control under-age drinking. While underage students who do not end up on guest lists for registered parties would ideally turn to alcohol-free activities such as Free Friday Films or commons-sponsored events, the alternatives are actually far more threatening. Students are more likely to stay in their dorms, privately drinking larger quantities of alcohol than they would at larger parties, or to seek a social life off campus. As driving becomes more dangerous with the onset of winter, all efforts should be made to keep students on campus or to provide safe and reliable transportation to off-campus parties.

Organizing a student-run safe ride program would be a way for the Student Government Association to take a stand for safety and responsibility.

The impetus for drastically restructuring the social scene on campus, however, ultimately needs support from College, local and national officials.

The 21-plus drinking age creates an awkward and frankly unrealistic division on campus between legal and non-legal drinkers.

Since the drinking age in Vermont did not return to 21 until 1987, *The Middlebury Campus* occasionally receives letters from alumni reminiscing of a time when the College enjoyed a more relaxed alcohol atmosphere, when students even occasionally joined their professors at the bar for a casual beer.

As President Emeritus John M. McCardell, Jr., has repeatedly pointed out, an over-18 drinking age would allow colleges to control drinking and more directly educate their students about the dangers and responsibilities of consuming alcohol.

While there are probably few college students in the country that would not be overjoyed to see a national return to an 18-and-up alcohol allowance, Middlebury College is unique in that its current situation is ideal for some serious alcohol-policy revision advocacy. The emphasis placed on the serious legal repercussions of under-age drinking with the arrival of the new state liquor inspector on campus has peaked outrage at the situation, and McCardell's research on the effects of a lowered drinking age has drawn national media attention. The time to take a stand is now.

OPINIONS SUBMISSION POLICY

The Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, *The Campus* reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. *The Campus* will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. *The Campus* welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editor, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's website at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday. *The Campus* reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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HEARD ON CAMPUS

IN THE EARLY DAYS, IF YOU WALKED DOWN BOURBON STREET WITH A BUNCH OF *TIMES-PICAYUNES* IT WAS LIKE YOU WERE BRINGING HOT BREAD TO THE STARVING MASSES.

—Jim Amoss, *Times-Picayune* editor in chief, during a lecture last Thursday

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I was pretty bummed when I read your interview with the new liquor inspector. If I really wanted to know his job history I would have called and asked for a resume. I would liken those sort of questions to getting an interview with Bush and asking him his favorite kind of pizza instead of why he's destroying the environment. I understand that you can't ask him why the hell we can't get free beer anymore (curt answer: it's illegal), but asking him why he's enforcing a policy that endangers students and makes it more likely for students to break the law would have been wicked nice. I'm pretty sure that you know that the majority of students are pretty miffed about this policy, and cutting into Mike a little bit instead of going all buddy, buddy would have been much appreciated. Check out the article on McCardell — he's got some pretty sweet stuff to say on the issue. I understand it must be hard to do your job with all the work we have here — I can't imagine having even one more deadline, so kudos for that. However, I feel like you sort of botched your opportunity.

Sincerely,
Jeff Bates '08
Cumberland, Maine

To the Editor:

I will add to the discussion about English and American literature courses at Middlebury by making a suggestion to future high school teachers. I urge you to take as many American Literature classes as you can while you are at the College. For one thing, English majors need to be prepared for the high school classroom by a deep knowledge of American works. If the English Literature major does not cover enough of them, take advantage of the opportunity in American Literature. High school courses center on the American novel, no matter what the syllabus says.

For another, by taking these classes before you graduate you will actually read them. There are many "I really should read this sometime" titles in American Lit. You may not get to them down the line. High school teachers do much preparation for units; not all textbook teacher guides do the trick.

The classroom may offer many learning aids. Still, the teacher is the ultimate resource. The students will seek your expertise. Middlebury's excellent English and American Literature majors will give you yours.

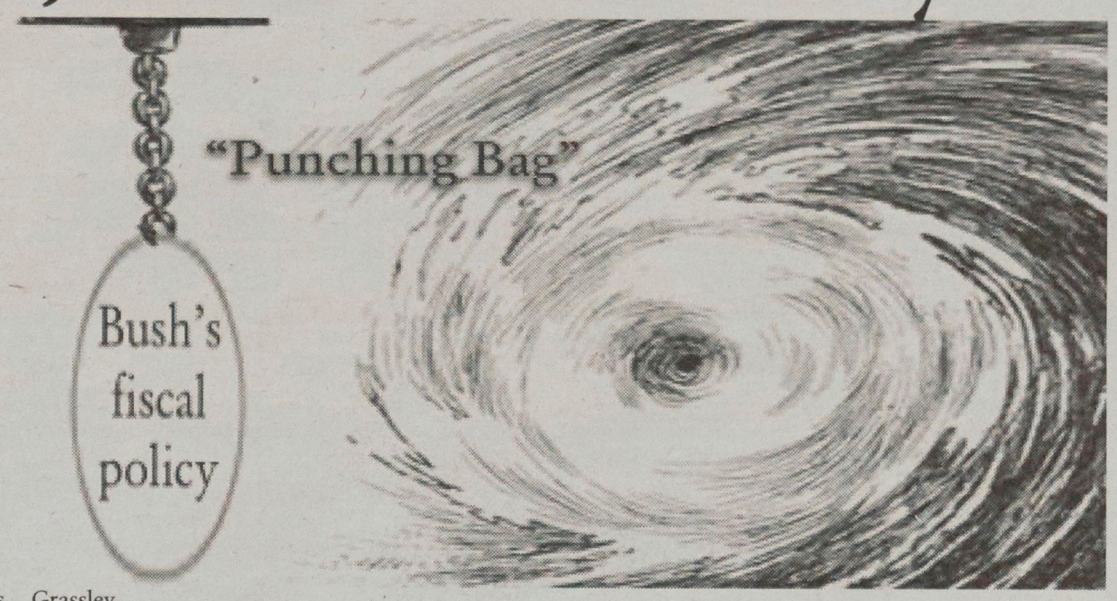
Sincerely,
Carroll Cummings '86

To the Editor:

With all due respect, Caroline Vial's review of Carla Fehr's lecture on the Summers episode at Harvard seems to illustrate the very thing it is decrying. Whereas Summers's remarks on some possible explanations for women's under-representation on the science and engineering faculties at Harvard that were a model of academic caution-tentative, open-minded, and un-dogmatic — Vial and Fehr's reaction was the very opposite. Realism being the first desideratum of moral responsibility, a good liberal arts education should honor the critical and un-biased search for truth. Let the spirit of Emerson bloom once more on New England's college campuses.

Sincerely,
Luke Lea
Signal Mtn., Tenn.

Pres. Bush, show me the money!



When Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast, it left an indelible geographic and human impact. There is an ever-growing death count reaching into the thousands, a historically significant city destroyed and over 70,000 public school students displaced in New Orleans alone, and those are just three examples. Katrina has caused and continues to cause an endless amount of pain and damage to its victims.

Hurricane Katrina has also had a profound political impact. Beginning with the Bush administration's initial lack of response to the disaster, continuing with the Medicaid disgrace and resulting Republican strife about spending on Katrina, there is evidence that the Republican Party has exposed a contradiction in its own policies.

The administration's failure to respond in the first 48 hours after the storm hit has been well documented. Bush was "monitoring" the storm from his ranch in Crawford, Texas, when it first began, and made his appearance in New Orleans several days later in close proximity to Air Force One. It was several days before Bush produced his initial relief package of $10.5 billion dollars, which was woefully inadequate. And it wasn't until 15 days after Katrina struck that the final aid package was passed. Here, Bush showed a lack of empathy for the victims and a hesitation to spend money.

Grassley (R-Iowa) and Baucus (D-Montana). The Grassley-Baucus legislation provides comprehensive and immediate Medicaid relief for Katrina's many low-income victims. In this legislation, the federal government will provide complete funding for the affected states, including Medicaid programs, which ensure total health coverage for all qualified.

Disturbingly, Bush and other Republicans opposed the Grassley-Baucus legislation on account of the spending involved. Bush only backed off when he became aware the bill was going to pass through Congress regardless of his support. Backers of the bill included former senate majority leader Trent Lott (R-Mississippi).

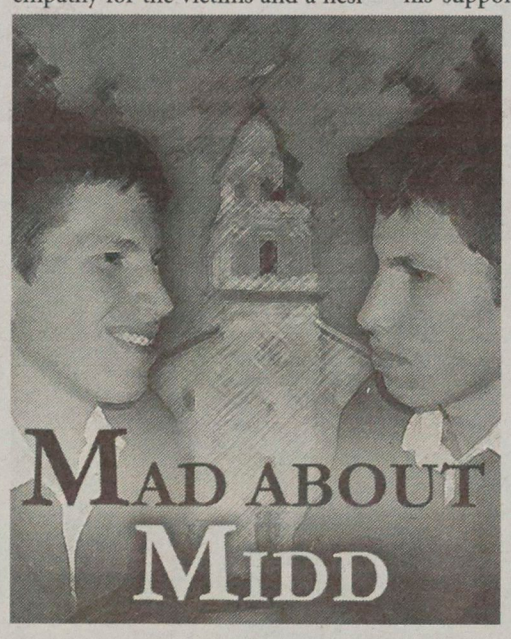
As a result, an internal feud of sorts has erupted within the Republican Party. In the most basic sense, some members want to increase federal spending to aid Katrina victims, while others want to decrease that spending in order to decrease the deficit. This latter group is, at least, advocating a less effective, less comprehensive way of handling the relief effort.

While the Republicans promulgate a policy of decreased government spending on social welfare programs, the same policymakers are forced (either morally, politically or both) to support such spending. The clear, present and desired solution to Katrina is a federally funded relief effort for the American victims, whether or not Republican ideology allows for it.

And where does all that money come from, a Republican might ask? Well, raising taxes seems trivial now if the alternative is Americans drowning.

The author is a fellow of the Roosevelt Institution of Middlebury College's Center on Social Justice.

ROB KING '09
AN UNDECLARED MAJOR
FROM YARMOUTH, MAINE



Wasting away the $42K

By Dave Barker
OPINION COLUMNIST

I didn't attend Brainerd Commons' pool party screening of *Jaws*, but I trembled nonetheless at Dana Auditorium while enjoying Tim Burton's interpretation of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Sure, Great Whites are scarier than grooving Oompa Loompas, but the real fright centered on the price difference between the two screenings.

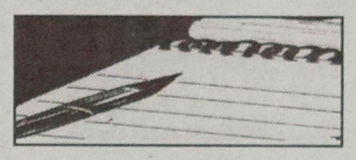
For the opportunity to bob in the pool for a few hours and hear the movie's hair-raising soundtrack, Brained nearly exhausted its "big event" budget of $6,000. Foam floaties accounted for over a *third* of that figure. With that kind of sponsorship, I would have expected Director Steven Spielberg and the shark now enjoying retirement at Universal Studios to have been in attendance.

Instead, the close to 200 students who showed up throughout the evening were joined by $480 worth of lifeguards. One could be certain that the lifeguards weren't looking for fins cutting through the water; Brainerd had the pool water cranked up four degrees to 87 — Great Whites are usually found in water 20-30 degrees cooler. While Brainerd originally considered 90 degree pool water, increasing the temperature of thousands of gallons of Natatorium water just four degrees sapped oil through the initial heating of the pool and through the ongoing heat loss associated with the higher temperature. At a school that prides itself on veggie oil, wind turbines and a prestigious Environmental Studies program, turning the pool into a bath tub should not have been allowed to happen.

I've noticed that energy gets wasted in other ways by the commons. And I'm not just talking about the unceasing stream of e-mails reminding students to mark their calendars for the upcoming blood drive a fifth time. This year's decision to allot an extra $6,000 to each commons for a "big event" was a wise move by the Finance Committee. Well-planned large events draw students from Allen and ADP to a common area. But the commons staff, too often channel their energies into organizing smaller events and activities that compete with the already-packed calendar filled by MCAB and student parties.

Events that merit spending the per-capita income of a developing country include big lectures like the Billy Collins reading sponsored by Ross last week, as well as concerts or semi-formal dances with catered alcohol. Ask students if they were able to obtain tickets to the early-October "Tender is the Night" ball and the answer would probably be no because of its popularity. While "Tender" was off campus, there's no reason why, with a little commons sponsorship, the Chateau Grand Salon couldn't be turned into a swanky setting for black ties and Mai Tais.

Over in Dana hanging with the Oompa Loompas, I couldn't dip my feet in a chocolate river, but the $500-$750 that MCAB spent for the movie rights left 150 students at the 9:30 p.m. showing satisfied and chlorine-free.



NOTES
FROM THE DESK

Everyone has been in this situation. You are walking back from the mailroom, along College Street or up the hill from BiHall. Maybe it's during class or late at night so no one is around. And then, on the horizon, you see another student approaching. This starts the mental process: didn't I drive home with that kid Feb break sophomore year? Or maybe he was in my second semester political science discussion? Or didn't we once play a pickup game of basketball together? It takes a few moments to register, but eventually you conclude that you a) have met this person at some point in your time at Middlebury or b) have no idea who he or she is. But that is irrelevant at this point as he is getting even closer. What is the next move? Should I wave, nod my head, smile? Or should I just pretend to check my watch, lower my head and walk straight by.

I would suggest the former and here's why. When I was considering schools, my father and I drove down to rural Virginia to visit Washington & Lee University. In my eyes, this was a huge waste of time. Yeah, the campus was pretty, the students seemed happy and the academics were well respected. But no matter how you looked at it, this place was the South and, right or wrong, I didn't think it suited me. In fact, the school itself is named after its former president and Confederate army general Robert E. Lee.

As it turns out, I really liked the school, especially its focus on tradition, more specifically the Speaking Tradition. This legacy ensures that each member of the community is afforded the ordinary courtesy of a simple greeting when passing. While I would be the last person to suggest we need any more of the superficial, "how was your break/summer/time abroad" conversations, I think this is more fundamental. This is about basic respect.

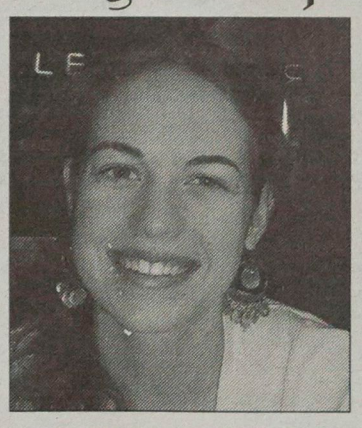
So the next time you see someone you vaguely know, or even someone you don't know — whether it be a student, faculty or staff member — don't feel awkward or embarrassed, just say "hi."

-JOSHUA CARSON
LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

The Middlebury Campus online poll

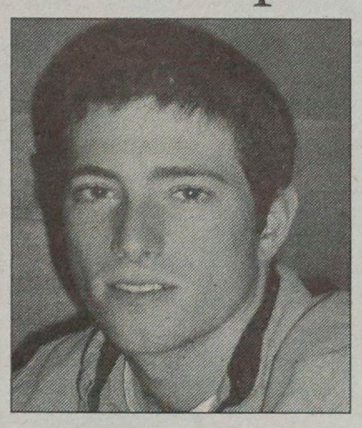
"THEY'RE ACTUALLY DOING THAT? I THOUGHT THAT WAS ONE OF THOSE GETTING RID OF J-TERM KIND OF THINGS."

— ANDREW ROSSMEISSL '05



"I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON."

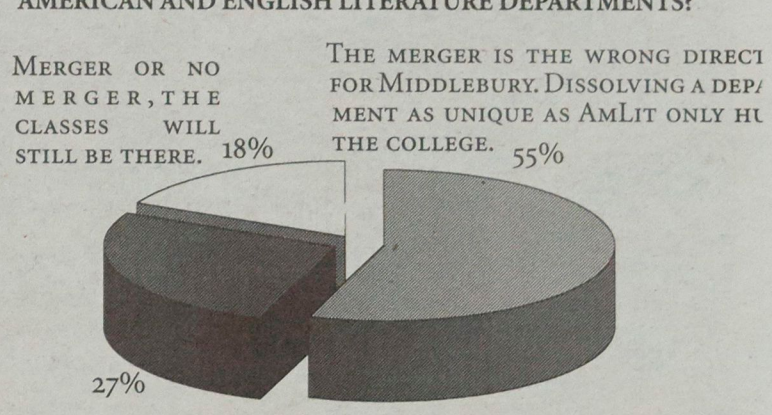
— CAROLINE KENSLER '07.5



"I DON'T KNOW THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT, BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA BECAUSE MAJORS COULD CHOOSE MORE CLASSES THEY'RE INTERESTED IN."

— JACOB WHITCOMB '06

DO YOU SUPPORT THE PROPOSED MERGER BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND ENGLISH LITERATURE DEPARTMENTS?


MERGER OR NO MERGER, THE CLASSES WILL STILL BE THERE.
18%
THE MERGER IS THE WRONG DIRECT FOR MIDDLEBURY. DISSOLVING A DEPA MENT AS UNIQUE AS AMLIT ONLY HU THE COLLEGE.
55%
27%

THE MERGER MAKES GOOD SENSE; NOW THOSE INTERESTED IN STUDYING BOTH AMLIT AND ENGLISH LIT CAN DO SO WITH ALL COURSES COUNTING TOWARDS THEIR MAJOR.

Results based on 112 responses collected between October 25 and November 1 at www.middleburycampus.com

NEXT WEEK'S POLL QUESTION: HOW OFTEN DO YOU LISTEN TO MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE RADIO (WRMC 91.1 FM)?

Donadio counters EAC proposal, Editorial

The editorial in last week's issue of *The Middlebury Campus* in support of the termination of the American Literature Department and major seems to me remarkably uninformed. In offering its recommendation, much of the essay merely recycles uncritically the kinds of unsubstantiated assertions made in the Educational Affairs Committee (EAC)'s proposal, taking these assertions at face value and as matters of established fact.

Among faculty members as well as students, there is much confusion about the nature and effect of the proposed "merger." For the record, here's the necessary history: in the fall of 2003, without openly acknowledging prior discussions of which members of the department were unaware, the Chair of American Literature and Civilization suddenly proposed consideration of a possible new joint major in English and American Literature, reassuring us all that serious exploration of this possibility and an assessment of various options would likely take many months.

Almost immediately, the possibility of a joint major was taken off the table, and replaced by the current more radical plan to terminate the American Literature major and create a new American Studies department.

This plan was then rushed to a vote, and presented to the English Department as the basis for a realignment that required no change whatsoever in the structure of that department or of the requirements for a major in English.

There is abundant e-mail documentation for all phases of the deplorable process that has led to the current situation, but at this point the Middlebury community needs to focus its attention on two basic educational questions:

(1) What exactly is the problem that is solved by the elimination of the American Literature major and Department?

If in the current longstanding arrangement it is now perceived that English majors don't study enough American Literature and American Literature majors don't study enough English literature, that is not a problem that is very difficult to remedy: English majors can be required to take specific American Literature courses in which they become familiar with specific American authors and texts — and vice versa. This would require no structural change whatsoever — nor would more attentive and responsible advising in both departments.

(2) Are there any courses or teaching opportunities that would be possible under the proposed EAC arrangements that would not be possible now?

It seems to me that the only honest answer to this question is NO. Indeed, in the latest list of courses projected out to 2010 in the proposed new department, there is nothing new, and cross-listed English/Am. Lit. courses have been offered here for decades.

As for the EAC claim, recirculated in *The Campus* editorial, that the very few students in these two departments who seek academic careers "have difficulty competing for admission to graduate programs" because their undergraduate training has presumably "been so narrow," where's the evidence for this?

If the basis of such claims is loosely anecdotal, then it should be pointed out that there is much contradictory evidence to report, evidence suggesting that graduating Middlebury seniors have been better prepared for the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) in American than in English Literature, because American Literature majors have been required to have some familiarity with the principal authors and works in that literature.

In fact, numerous English majors I have taught have reported that when they took the GREs they were surprised to find themselves unprepared for them, since that examination referred to many works that they had never been obliged to read. In any case, any worthwhile conclusions on this score would have to be backed up by evidence, not just selected anecdotes.

Similarly, where is the concrete evidence needed to support the contention that Middlebury graduates who hope to teach high school are currently "disadvantaged" by a "lack of exposure" to either English or American literature?

Are they not sufficiently intelligent to enroll in those courses that they perceive — or are informed by their academic advisers — they will need to secure a literary background that is both broad and deep?

Finally, the EAC's suggestion that if American Literature is eliminated as a distinct department of study "the catalogue will be less confusing to students" is simply juvenile and an insult to the intelligence of Middlebury students — as the high enrollment figures in American Literature courses have demonstrated for many years.

In sum, the proposal to terminate the American Literature major seems to me ill-conceived and intellectually incoherent, vague in its intentions and devastating in its impact, which would be far-reaching. It is my hope that the faculty will choose to maintain a department and a literature curriculum that have served the College with evident distinction, and that offer all Middlebury students the opportunity to secure a comprehensive grasp of the nation's principal literary achievements over the past four centuries.

STEPHEN DONADIO
FULTON PROFESSOR OF
AMERICAN LITERATURE

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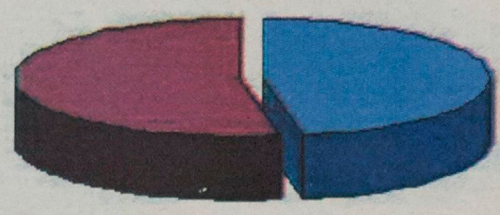
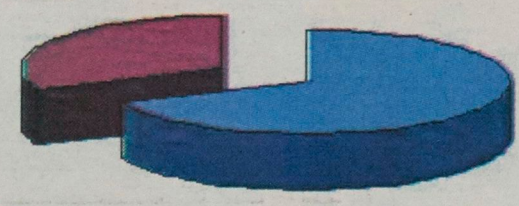
the sex survey

Are you a virgin?

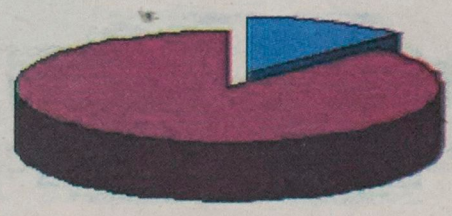
First-year males
yes: 46.2% no: 53.8%



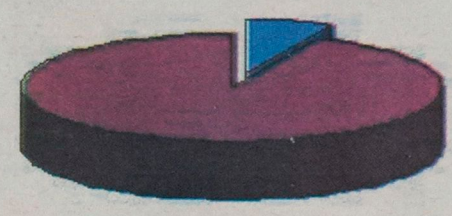
First-year females
yes: 68% no: 32%



Senior Males
yes: 13% no: 87%

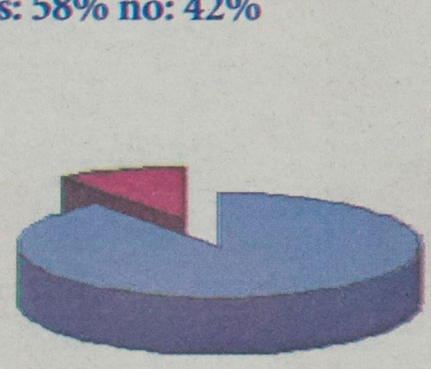


Senior Females
yes: 7% no: 93%

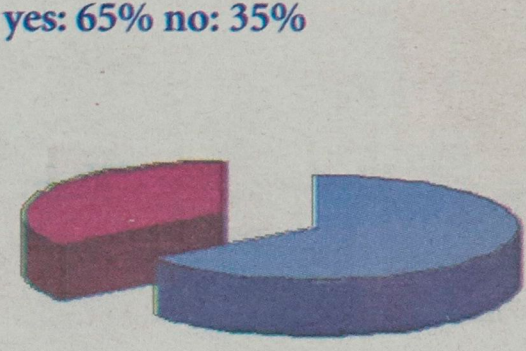


Have you ever had a drunken hookup?

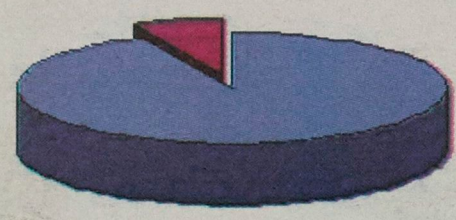
First-year Males
yes: 58% no: 42%



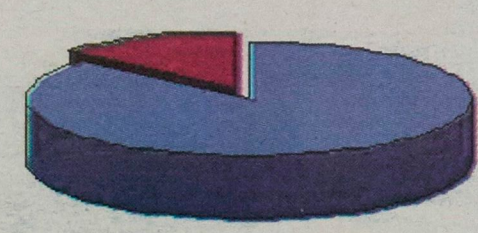
First-year Females
yes: 65% no: 35%



Senior Males
yes: 93% no: 7%



Senior Females
yes: 87% no: 13%



A brief analys of the sex sur

-By senior year, 58 pe had unprotected sex

-The average number bury females is 2.5. F

-The greatest numbe

- First-year males ma a day, but by senior y average one time a we

- The average age at w virginity is 17.2

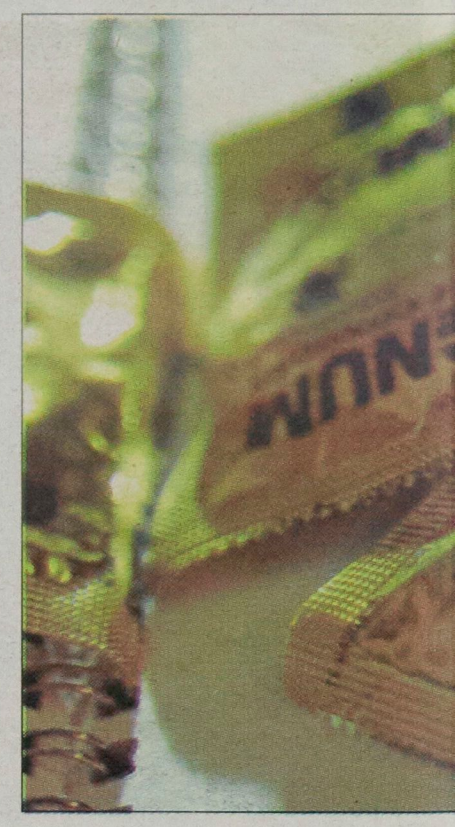
- 31.7 percent of stud ing or more) on a sig

- 31.1 percent of stud black panties means a

- 70.5 percent of fresh hookup, while 90 per one.

- 94 percent of studen as their preferred for 86 percent preferred t

Results based on 261 students surveye Ross, Proctor, Atwater, The Center for Hall and various dorms.

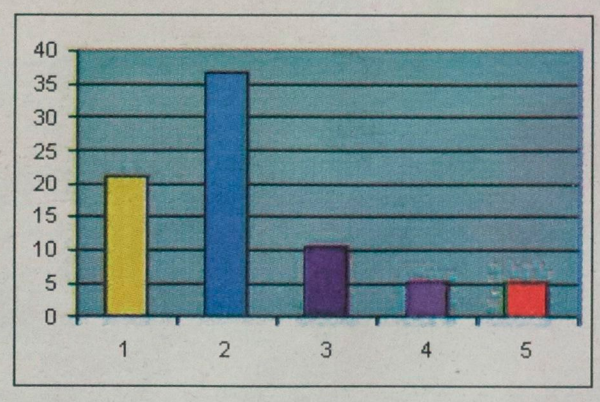


The Condom is the preferred method of bi

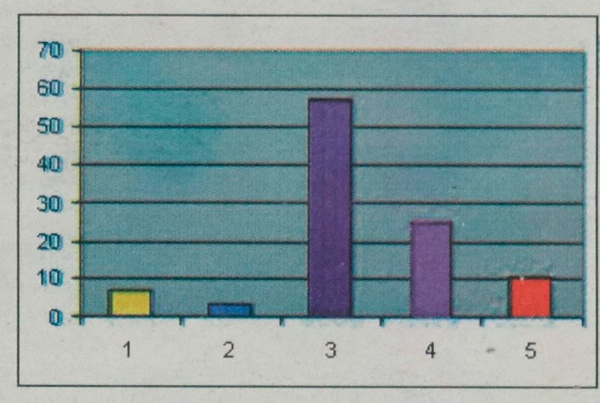
How often do you masturbate?

A comparison of college men by year

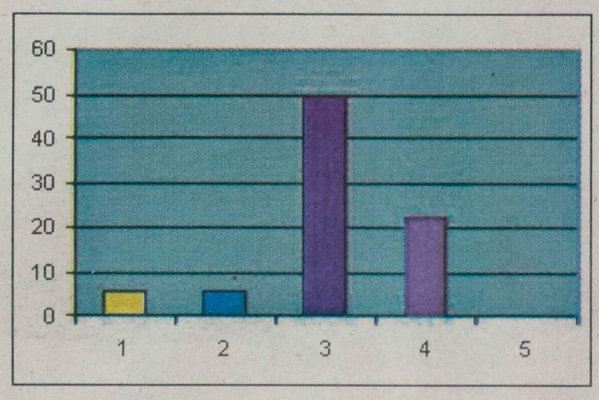
First-year Males



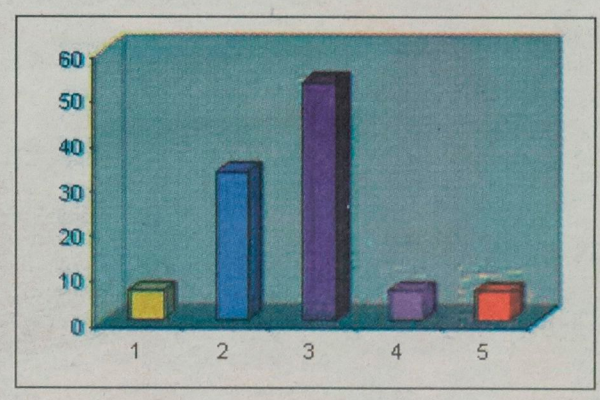
Sophomore Males



Junior Males

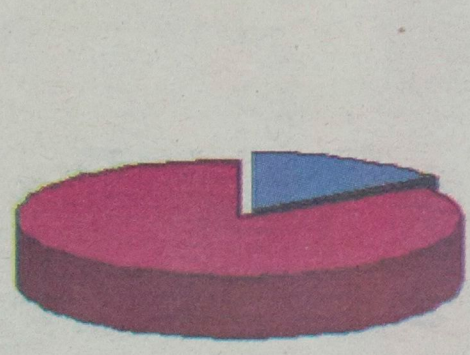


Senior Males

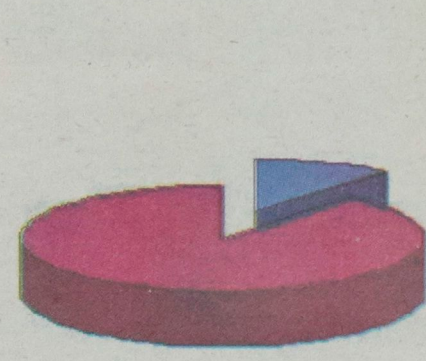


Have you ever had unprotected sex?

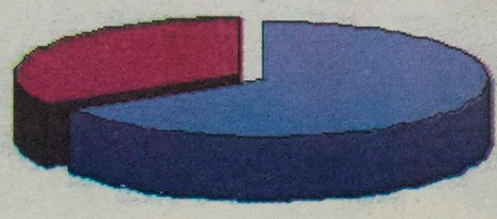
First-year Males
yes: 15% no: 85%



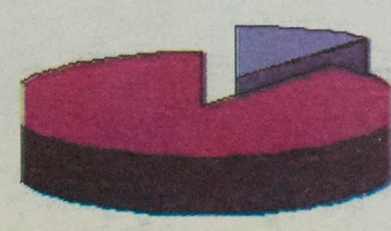
First-year Females
yes: 11% no: 89%



Senior Males
yes: 63% no: 37%



Senior Females
yes: 46% no: 54%



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Arts, John McCardell Jr., Bicentennial

Albert Bitici/Vlad Lodoaba

control at Middlebury, followed closely by the Pill.

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Times-Picayune: surviving the storm

By Andrea M. LaRocca
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

With the new yet bittersweet slogan of *The Times-Picayune*, "We publish come hell *and* high water," projected behind him, Editor-in-Chief Jim Amoss explained to a Middlebury audience last Thursday exactly how his newspaper survived the odds and the elements, publishing all the while during Hurricane Katrina's onslaught. Amoss, the uncle of Matt Amoss '07.5, lectured at Middlebury on Oct. 27 at his nephew's request.

The *Times-Picayune*, which is the largest local paper to serve the New Orleans area, recently gained fame under Amoss' leadership when the newspaper did not miss a day of publication during Hurricane Katrina. The newspaper was also one of, if not the first, to make known the depth and extent of the devastation in New Orleans.

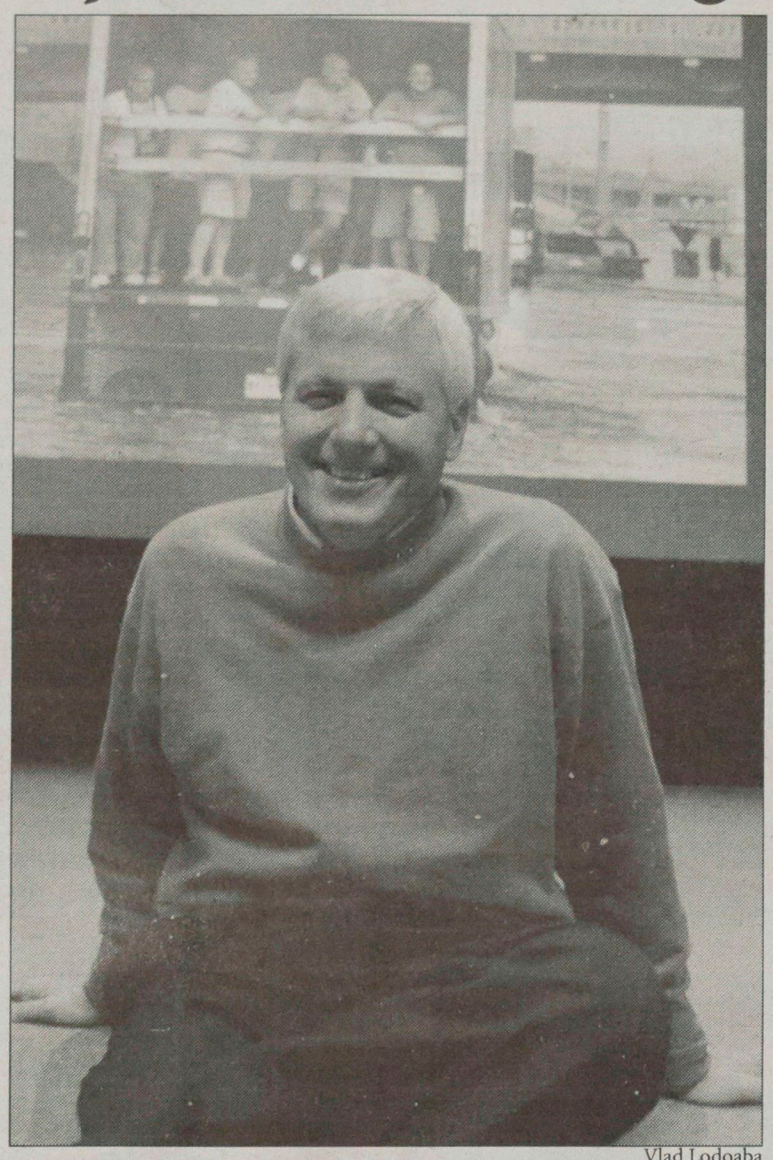
Using his staff's photographs to illustrate his story, Amoss told the Middlebury audience that he arrived at the *Times-Picayune* office on Aug. 26 ready for more of the usual hurricane season coverage. That fateful afternoon before landfall, he joked to his colleague and *Times-Picayune* hurricane reporter Mark Schleifstein that it would be "another uneventful weekend." But when he saw Schleifstein's expression, Amoss realized that this time, something was different.

"How pale he was made me pay attention," said Amoss. In spring 2002, Schleifstein had written a five-part series in the *Times-Picayune* entitled "Washing Away," which detailed how the "bowl" of New Orleans would fill up if a Category 4 hurricane or stronger hit New Orleans. When Schleifstein showed Amoss computer images of Katrina spiraling straight towards the Louisiana coastline, he knew that Schleifstein's predictions — once ignored as being alarmist — were suddenly valid.

After convincing his wife and son to evacuate to Texas, Amoss packed his sleeping bag and hunkered down in the *Times-Picayune* office with his colleagues to await the storm and to cover whatever it would bring.

"At about 2 a.m. on Sunday night, the wind started howling," said Amoss. "Then at about four in the morning, the power went out. By 4:30 a.m., one of the huge floor-to-ceiling windows in our newsroom was blown in its entirety all the way across the room into the opposite wall." That was how it began in the *Times-Picayune* office — and by morning Katrina was in full force.

Amoss described how he watched the storm peel away rooftops and tear down trees. In the morning, with rain pouring down in "opaque sheets," two reporters dared to ride their bicycles out into the city to assess the damage. Amoss said that they came back, breatheless, with the startling news that the levees had broken and the city was flooding. According to Amoss, when the bicyclists returned, the other reporters were preparing that day's front page. Amoss remembered their exact words to the newsroom about their work in progress: "'Put it away. What is going to happen is going to make the hurricane look like child's play.'"



Vlad Lodoaba

Poignant photos of the *Times-Picayune's* evacuation set the scene for Editor-in-Chief Jim Amoss' story of the newspaper's hurricane coverage.

The *Times-Picayune* published online that night with the headline, "Catastrophic," at a time when other national medias were still reporting that New Orleans had "dodged yet another bullet," said Amoss. With the water rising outside the newspaper office at a rate of one inch every seven minutes, though, Amoss knew that neither his city nor his newspaper had dodged anything yet, and he made the difficult decision to evacuate the building.

The journalists who ignored the first evacuation orders to stay behind and cover the disaster suddenly had to abandon their posts. The 240 people in the *Times-Picayune* office — including some family members of the newspaper staff — piled into 12 diesel-powered newspaper delivery trucks and plowed through the streets, which were over four feet underwater. "We left with the queasy fear that for the first time since the Civil War, we might not produce a newspaper tomorrow," said Amoss.

When the newspaper refugees reached safety on the other side of the Mississippi River, their first concern was how to publish a newspaper by morning. According to Amoss, they quickly realized that people needed to report firsthand from inside the city. An eclectic group of 12 reporters — including the editorial page editor, the art critic and the popular music critic — volunteered to return to the "hell and high water" from which they had just escaped. The rest of the *Times-Picayune* staff traveled on to Houma, La., where newspaper production began at the offices of sister newspaper *Houma Courier*.

In the worst combination of personal and journalistic stress, the *Times-Picayune* kept publishing. "We devised a rule early on that if you worked in the newsroom, no matter what position you had, if you had lost your house in the storm, nobody could yell at you for anything," recalled Amoss with a sad laugh.

The *Times-Picayune* published online again that night and the following night, but by the fourth day, it was publishing hard copy newspapers on the *Houma Courier* presses. These newspaper were then distributed to the overflowing New Orleans refugee shelters and to accessible people in the city.

"In the early days, if you walked down Bourbon Street with a bundle of *Times-Picayunes*, it was like you were bringing hot bread to the starving masses," said Amoss.

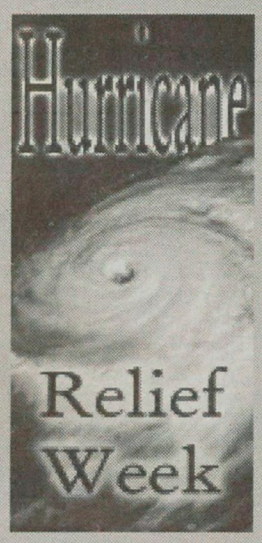
After relocating again to Louisiana State University and publishing from its journalism school offices for several weeks, the *Times-Picayune* returned to its New Orleans office, which miraculously did not flood, as of Oct. 10. Amoss' wife and son also returned to their home for the first time the night before Amoss' lecture.

Amoss already had a trip planned to the New England area for a conference in N.Y. and a lecture at Yale when Matt asked his uncle to include Middlebury in his trip. Last Thursday marked Amoss' first visit to the College, and he was here for a whirlwind 24 hours.

"When Jim told us the story of how they [the *Times-Picayune* staff] were still publishing and how they barely got out of the city, my first reaction and my dad's first reaction were the same: that someone needs to tell that story," said Matt, a New Orleans resident and driving force in the Middlebury Hurricane Coalition. Five out of the six brothers in the Amoss family call New Orleans home.

Amoss' lecture was well-received, though slightly less attended than expected. President Emeritus and Professor of History John McCardell said of Amoss' lecture, "I thought Jim's presentation was remarkable. His insights into the impact of Katrina on his home town, together with his story of how the *Times-Picayune* continued to cover the news and get the paper out, provided marvelous examples of tenacity, persistence, imagination and grace under pressure."

Amoss continues to spearhead the now-famous and award-winning local publication's coverage of New Orleans' recovery, but, as the newspaper's slogan suggests, he does so with an optimistic outlook, despite emotional memories of Katrina's wrath. "New Orleans will rebound and be a better city than it has been," he said. "And we'll be there for it."



Nov. 6, 8 p.m., Mead Chapel
Remembrance Ceremony
Performances by Twilight Artist-in-Residence Francois Clemmons, Assistant in Music Dick Forman and student musicians. Remarks by New Orleans students.

Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m., the Cook Commons House
Strength in the Storm: Traditions, Texts, and Contemporary Responses to Tragedy

Nov. 8, 9-11 p.m., Pearsons Lounge
Crescent City Coffeehouse

Nov. 9, 7 p.m., Wonnacott Commons House
Cajun cooking lessons

Nov. 10, 5-8 p.m., all dining halls
Tastes of New Orleans dinner

Nov. 11, 8-10 p.m. Grille Juice Bar
Benefit Concert & Auction
With participation from D8, SIM, Mamajamas, Bobolinks, On Tap, Otter Nonsense and student bands.

Nov. 12, 12-2 a.m., Ross Dining Hall
Mardi Gras Party and Concert

Nov. 8-14, Harman Periodicals Reading Area
Library Book Sale
The main library will offer withdrawn and duplicate copies of books, record albums and other media for sale.

All proceeds from the week will go to Students at the Center (SAC), an independent organization that works within the New Orleans public school system. SAC is currently putting together a pilot program designed to provide a GED-based curriculum to inner-city high school students who have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Roosevelt Institution ignites student dialogue

By Jack Lysohir
Assistant Opinions Editor

The Roosevelt Institution's Middlebury Chapter hosted over 100 students and faculty for its kickoff event last Thursday evening. The event celebrated the official launch of Roosevelt's Middlebury Chapter, which was founded last spring. It was held in the Robert A. Jones '59 House and included a performance by the Middlebury Jazz Band as well as speeches from two distinguished guests from outside of Middlebury.

Emcee and Executive Director of the Roosevelt Institution's Middlebury Chapter Alex Garlick '08.5 was in high spirits. "It was outstanding that we didn't just have members of the student body, but also distinguished members of the community such as state legislators," he said. "This shows that our message is being received by a broader population."

Everything thus far has been strictly preliminary. The event was indicative of what a good idea this is, and good ideas go far.

— Jessie Singleton '08.5

Faculty in attendance included members from the Political Science, History and Economics Departments.

Event co-chair Abigail Blum '08 said, "I was really pleased with the turnout."

The Roosevelt Institution was founded in November 2004 following the U.S. Presidential Elections. Dismayed by what they perceived as a lack of dialogue on important issues, students from Stanford, Yale, Bates and Middlebury began discussing ways to widen their involvement in the political process. The Roosevelt Institution is the fruit of their brainstorming — it is the first-ever student-run think tank.

Today the rapidly growing Roosevelt Institution exists in nearly 100 colleges and universities and has received national attention from media outlets such as *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times* and *The Washington Post*. Like other think tanks, Roosevelt plans to research domestic and international issues, articulate policies and disseminate its work throughout Washington.

Official Roosevelt literature reads, "Colleges are effectively think tanks, they are just not effective think tanks." The novelty of using college students as thinkers provides Roosevelt with impressive resources. The Institution counts millions of college students as potential researchers and scholars, each one brimming with energy. A political science major's lengthy senior thesis may now go on to become part of an article published in the *Roosevelt Review*, the Institution's quarterly of about 10 articles, instead of lying dormant in the file cabinets of Munroe.

Roosevelt's present challenge is to organize the many college minds into an efficient national think tank. It has adopted a strategy in which each college or university's chapter is treated individually, and within each there exists multiple policy centers. These policy centers will address particular issues and work to formulate strong policy in those fields. Currently Middlebury has five policy centers: The Center on Education, The Center on International Affairs, The Center on the Environment, The Center on Governmental Reform and The Center on Social Justice.

"Roosevelt's operating model gives us lots of flexibility in determining which centers to host, and we will adopt more [centers] if the interest in running them is there," said Jessie Singleton '08.5, president of the Roosevelt Institution's Middlebury chapter.

Although founded in the wake of President Bush's re-election, the Roosevelt Institution claims not to be liberal. "Not left or right but forward," is the official Roosevelt wording, and thus the Institution has been given non-partisan tax-exempt status. Like President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and President Teddy Roosevelt before them, members of the Roosevelt Institution strive toward progressive politics, which are today often associated with liberal Democrats, but the Roosevelt Institution leans towards good government — a leaning that should transcend party lines.

Maine Senator Ethan Strimling, (D-Cumberland) was the first of two keynote speakers at the kick-off event. Strimling mused on the ability of Republicans to build a strong political base, and the inability of the Democrats to create such a base. A firm believer in the abilities of students, Strimling sees the Institution's strength in its capacity to help dig a greater foundation for progressive causes.

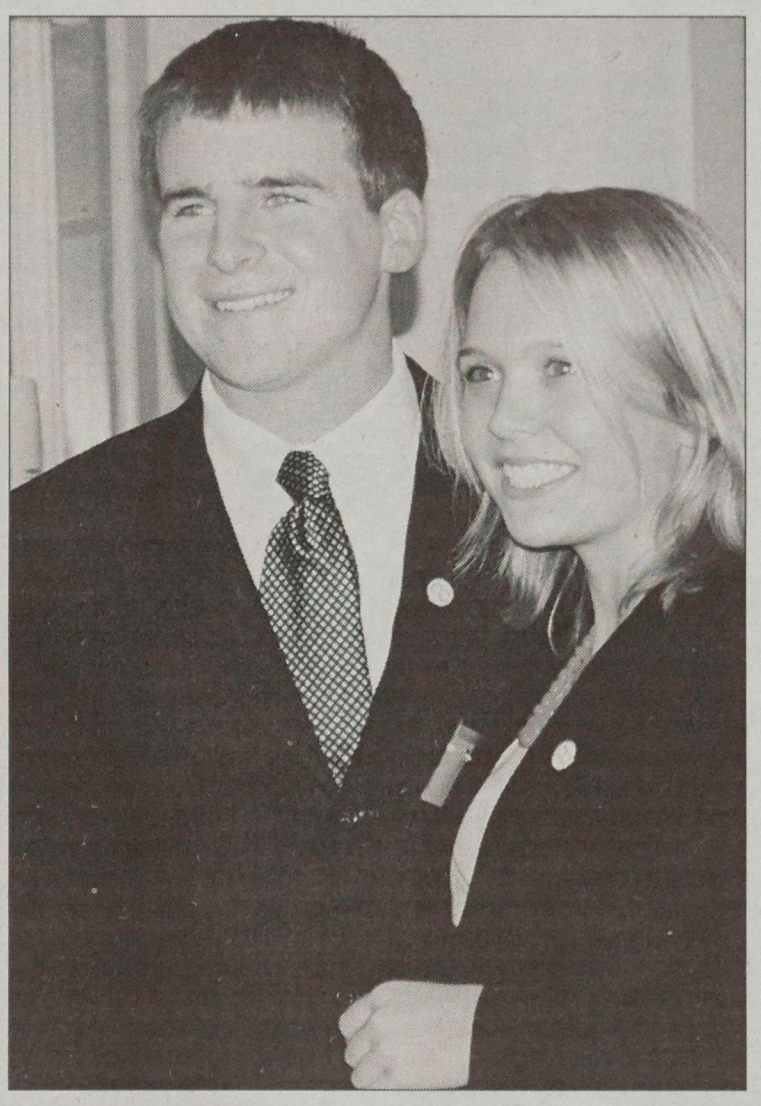
Professor Emeritus of American History at Yale University John Morton Blum was the second keynote speaker. Blum, having been introduced as one of President Bush's professors at Yale, began with the quip, "I assure you that Bush never came to class."

He spoke about progressivism as being the truly thoughtful approach to politics as well as progressivism's deep roots in American democracy.

Singleton ended the night with a speech stressing the importance of the Roosevelt Institution. Beaming with the successes of the night, she remarked that "we [college students] were tired of helping candidates by giving them our time and our energy, when we could be helping the country with our ideas."

The Roosevelt Institution's future at Middlebury seems bright. Nearly 200 students have expressed interest. The five policy centers are meeting on a weekly basis, and Roosevelt's Web site, www.rooseveltinstitution.org, is updated daily.

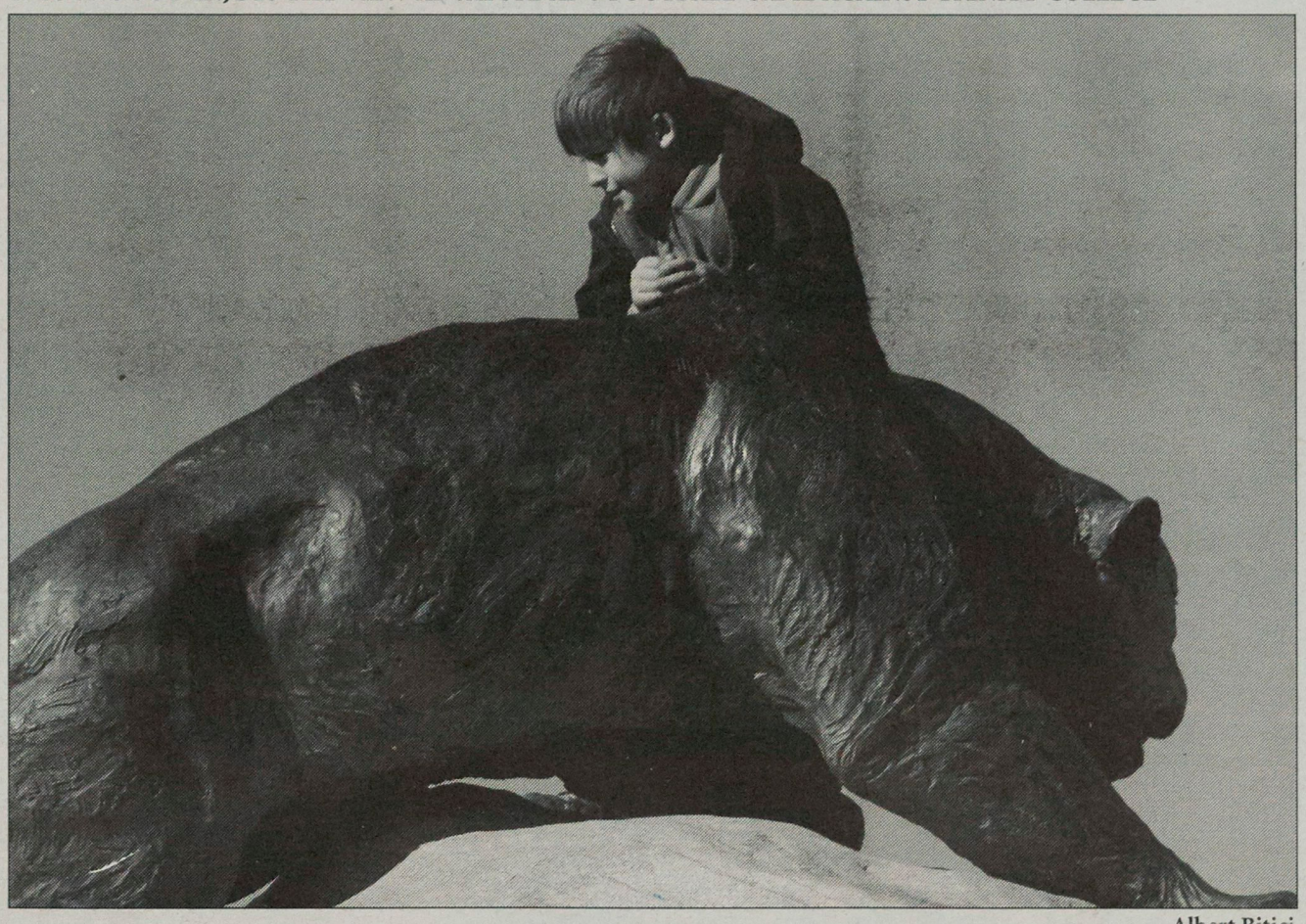
Singleton thinks that last Thursday's event was only the beginning. "Everything thus far has been strictly preliminary. The event was indicative of what a good idea this is, and good ideas go far."



Courtesy/Alex Garlick

Thrilled by the success of the Roosevelt Institution kickoff event, Alex Garlick '08.5 and Jessie Singleton '08.5 are excited for what's to come.

A YOUNG BOY ENJOYS THE VIEW AT SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL GAME AGAINST TRINITY COLLEGE



Albert Bitici

Last weekend, parents and family members reunited with their Middlebury students under a glowing sun. The clouds parted for a bright and warm Fall Family Weekend II, during which the campus buzzed with activity. The events commenced with a pumpkin tumble on Battell Beach that catered to students' younger siblings and included a pony ride. Friday afternoon also featured a workshop and poetry reading by Billy Collins, the former U.S. poet laureate. This event was one of the most talked-about of the weekend. Later in the evening, there was a Midd Cheer Talent show including singers, jugglers and dancers.

The events continued through Saturday, beginning with dining hall brunches. The beautiful afternoon brought all different family members out onto the grassy areas of campus for frisbee and football. That evening, the Capitol Steps comedy troupe performed hilarious skits satirizing the current political atmosphere. An a capella jamboree in Mead Chapel afforded parents and friends the opportunity to hear students sing. Sunday was relaxing, with great food, more sunshine and the inevitable goodbyes.

— Katie Washburn

BY MATT KUNZWEILER

At the Saturday night Halloween party in Johnson, there was a large tangled mass of glow rings hanging from strings above the pit where costumed drunks danced to the beat of a costumed jam band. All night, partygoers on the mezzanine had been reaching out over the railing and unfastening individual glow rings from the tangle that looked like the world's tackiest chandelier. Slowly, the multicolored light source overhead decreased in size and intensity as the pit became speckled by more and more neon rings, which encircled half the necks on the dance floor. Sometime past midnight, one of the strings suspending the giant glowing wad broke in the hands of a human hamburger, shifting the chandelier to a spot right against the railing, making for easy picking.

I already had a glow ring. But I wanted another, so I chased my crazy dream and walked over the tangle, and as I reached out a girl took hold of my shoulder and asked me what I thought I was doing. I pointed at the mass. It was obvious enough.

"Someone worked long and hard to make that," she said. It looked like a neon hairball.

"Seriously?"

She pointed at my neck. "And you already have one."

"Some people have several." A six-foot-three ballerina with hairy legs and an exposed beer belly walked by and whooped randomly. I pointed at the stranger, "This is for my friend." She didn't bother to look. "And besides," I continued, "the party will be over soon and these will still be glowing, but no one will be here to appreciate them," I said, more or less.

"How about you leave it alone," she retorted. Then I waited for her to say that she had helped decorate for the party and that my compliance would be appreciated — or that she was kidding. But she said nothing and held her ground, leading me to think she was just some person frivolously defending the glow rings from being enjoyed as their instructions recommend. I noticed she was staring at me.

Halloween is about shenanigans and ghoulishness, not awkwardness. She was denigrating my favorite holiday. I had to take a stand.

As I reached out to grab a glow ring, she literally fought against my right to party, slapping the back of my hand with the vengefulness of a 19th century schoolmarm. It almost kinda hurt. I retracted my hand, turned and stared at her with eyes that said, "That's an expellable offense." But I was wearing a really silly hat, so I probably didn't look angry. But I was. I was angry in a big conical hat.

Instead of sinking to her level and slapping the back of her hand, I took the high road and tried again for a glow ring — this time without incurring abuse. I smiled and left the scene with a second glow ring in my possession. I felt utterly elated. But very soon — as with any cheap party favor — the novelty wore off.

Billy Collins enlivens Mead Chapel

By Polly Johnson
FEATURES EDITOR

Billy Collins, the U.S. poet laureate from 2001 to 2003, spoke to a Mead Chapel audience of students, visiting parents, faculty and staff last Friday, delivering an eloquent, thought-provoking, inspiring and often side-splittingly funny reading of his poems.

Reginald L. Cook Professor of American Literature Brett Millier introduced Collins as "the most widely read contemporary poet today." Before Millier spoke, Katy Abbott, co-faculty head of Ross Commons, spoke about the "Readings in Ross: The Fall Poetry Series" program that has been in the process of development for the past year. Abbott and her husband, co-faculty head of Ross Commons Steve Abbott "were inspired to contact Billy Collins and to invite him for a reading during a conversation with a Ross parent during a Fall Family Weekend last year." In an effort to gradually introduce the poetry series, Ross Commons sent "all entering first-year students in Ross a collection of contemporary poems selected and introduced by Billy Collins," according to Mrs. Abbott. At the start of the year, new students met in small groups to discuss the poems they had read and the role of poetry in contemporary society.

The lecture was sponsored by the Abernethy Lecture Fund, which was established in 1927 to bring American writers to Middlebury. Millier explained that the annual lecture or reading has been given by distinguished poets, critics and fiction writers. The first speaker in the series was Robert Frost in 1927.

In her introduction, Millier described Collins' poems as "broadly accessible" and containing complete "technical sophistication."

Albert Bitici

Reciting his poems, Billy Collins enchanted Mead Chapel's audience.

Not more than 30 seconds into Collins' speech, the audience was captivated by his humor, warmth and personality. He noted that "the first poem is a welcoming poem to the reader, an acknowledgement of his presence," and then proceeded to read his introductory selection, followed by many others. His poignant poems and engaging reading style allowed for a great amount of audience participation. The laughter raucous at times, and the silence of audience reflection was equally powerful. Attendee Peter Hamlin, associate professor of Music and Music Department chair, said, "Collins seems like a magician to me — he puts ordinary objects in front of you that you think you recognize, and all of a sudden they become something else entirely."

Gary Margolis, director and psychologist at the Counseling and Human Relations Center and an associate professor of English, was equally moved by Collins. Margolis, a poet himself, will be reading his poetry as a part of the Ross Poetry Series on Nov. 8. He agreed that "this was Middlebury at its best. [Collins'] combination of being able to empathize in poems that are smart, wry and so cognizant of the images that we surround ourselves with, and to be able to put it in a language that is gentle and rhythmic so that people can enter the poems with him, gives him a very unique place in North American poetry."

Collins showed a great range in his poems. He read two poems about dogs, a humorous haiku, his title poem — "The Trouble With Poetry" — and a work that cracked everyone up in Mead Chapel, "The Lanyard." His poems mixed the pleasures of mundane life with humor and hints of tenderness and deeper, underlying meanings. In speaking of the appropriate time to write poems about death, he quoted Martha Stewart: "It's good at holiday time or anytime."

Students were equally impressed with Collins. Will Martin '07.5 said of the readings, "Having not ever read or even heard of Billy Collins and being generally skeptical at the idea of a poetry reading, I found his 'lecture' satirical and funny while remaining emotionally moving. I liked his conscious play and engagement of the reader through his masterful perception of everyday life."

The question and answer section was as enjoyable as the reading. He explained the process by which he was elected to be the Poet Laureate, as well as how he goes about writing his poems. In explaining how he writes a successful poem, he said, "I try to read my poems as a reader would. As I write the poem, I have to keep flipping over to the reader's side."

Overall, Collins' lecture was a huge success. The positive feedback was overwhelming. Millier stated it particularly well: "Collins is well-known for his sense of humor, both on the page and in public readings, and he did not disappoint us. Several of the poems he read brought the house down with laughter. I remember 'The Lanyard' in particular in that regard. But he is also a serious, well-read and intelligent poet whose humorous poems almost always say something serious and moving and important about how it feels to be human."

World Briefs

— By Caroline Vial

Bird flu hits Africa

An avian virus has been detected along the bird migration routes in Romania and Turkey, where it seemed to be controlled by slaughtering and quarantines. Researchers in Oran that have organized a meeting to learn more about the disease, consider it "high time to sensitize the general public." Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania have banned the importation of poultry from all affected areas, to protect themselves from a disease which has already killed 60 people and millions of birds in Asia. The avian flu could kill the chickens in rural African villages and weaken the poor infrastructures, limited resources and the reluctance of farmers to sacrifice the only source of protein and revenue.

—*Courrier International*, Paris.

Jeopardy in Germany

The political sphere in Germany is facing an even deeper crisis with the retreat of Edmund Stoiber from Angela Merkel's designated government, in addition to the confusion surrounding the participation or resignation of the designated Vice-Chancelor Franz Müntefering. Representing the Social Democrats, Müntefering's candidate for the party's number two position was rejected by the Social Democratic Party's executive committee. Designated Chancelor Angela Merkel hopes to convince the public about the integrity of her plan for a grand-coalition government between the Christian Democratic Union and the Social Democratic Party.

— *Courrier International*, Paris.

Astro-reading 101

Indian Astrologer Kunjilal Malvija had predicted the day and time of his death. Millions of fellow Indians had rushed to the village of Sehara, 200 kilometers from Bhopal, to witness Malvija's departure, but in vain. The prediction was not realized. If the astrologer is still a part of this world, it is due to the prayers of the attendants, declared his family. Policemen were posted near his home to prevent the seventy-year-old man from ending his own life. This type of prediction is not a first in India; astrologers were once lynched for erring on the date of their deaths.

— *BBC News online*, London

WINNERS & LOSERS

What's hot and what's not on campus and in pop culture? *The Campus* gives its weekly report.

Daylight Savings time	**Darkness at 5 p.m.**
Oh no, you woke up late! But wait! Daylight Savings to the rescue! You actually have an hour more than you thought. Whew.	Yup, it's that time again — time to think about hibernating.
Scandalous Halloween costumes	**Halloween costumes with lots of clothing**
We're not interested in tricks. Just the treats.	Unless you plan on taking it all off later...
Another free dinner with the parents	**Allowances that have to last until Christmas**

Halloween

VACA party in Johnson
Photos and layout: Vlad Lodoaba

CAPITOL STEPS POKE FUN AT ALL THINGS POLITICAL

Albert Bitici

Pepin gym was filled to capacity with students, parents and teachers that were on hand Saturday night to see The Capitol Steps, the political comedy group lauded by the Washington Post Reader's Choice for best live theater in 2005. Known for their biting political satire, they began in 1981 when three members of Senator Charles Percy's (R-IL) staff provided entertainment for a Christmas Party by performing skits based on topics gracing the political headlines. Sara Dewey '07.5 said, "What I liked most about the performance was that they were able to make fun of everyone." Rachel Norton '07.5, however, felt "there was an obvious liberal tilt but maybe that's because they were catering to Vermonters."

The Capitol Steps present show is based on their new CD, entitled, "Four More Years in the Bush Leagues." In the two-hour performance, the five-person group of three males and two females had ample time to poke fun at highly publicized and controversial issues. Attention was brought to President Bush and his inability to pronounce certain words and the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal. Newly-appointed Supreme Court Justice John Roberts sang "I'm So Pretty," Harriet Miers and George W. Bush dueted, the Iraqi minister of tourism visited and four Supreme Court justices performed.

Colleen Sullivan '07, the MCAB special committee's chair, felt this was a perfect act for the weekend. "I received a lot of positive feedback after the show and I really enjoyed seeing audience members chatting with the group on their way out. The crowd was great, the group had a lot of fun and the board members did a great job with setting up and loading out. Everything ran very smoothly and it seemed like everyone had a good time."

—Sarah Shaikh

arts

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REFLECTING LOVE'S DIMENSIONS
ZOO HOSTS TENTH ANNUAL FIRST-YEAR SHOW

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ALL-STAR BAND
DOCUMENTARY TAKES REFUGEES TO THE SCREEN

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KIM-TRANG TALKS FILM
VIDEO ARTIST SHOOTS THROUGH ISSUES OF BLINDNESS

Zoo opens season with no slight folly

By Ellen Grafton
Staff Writer

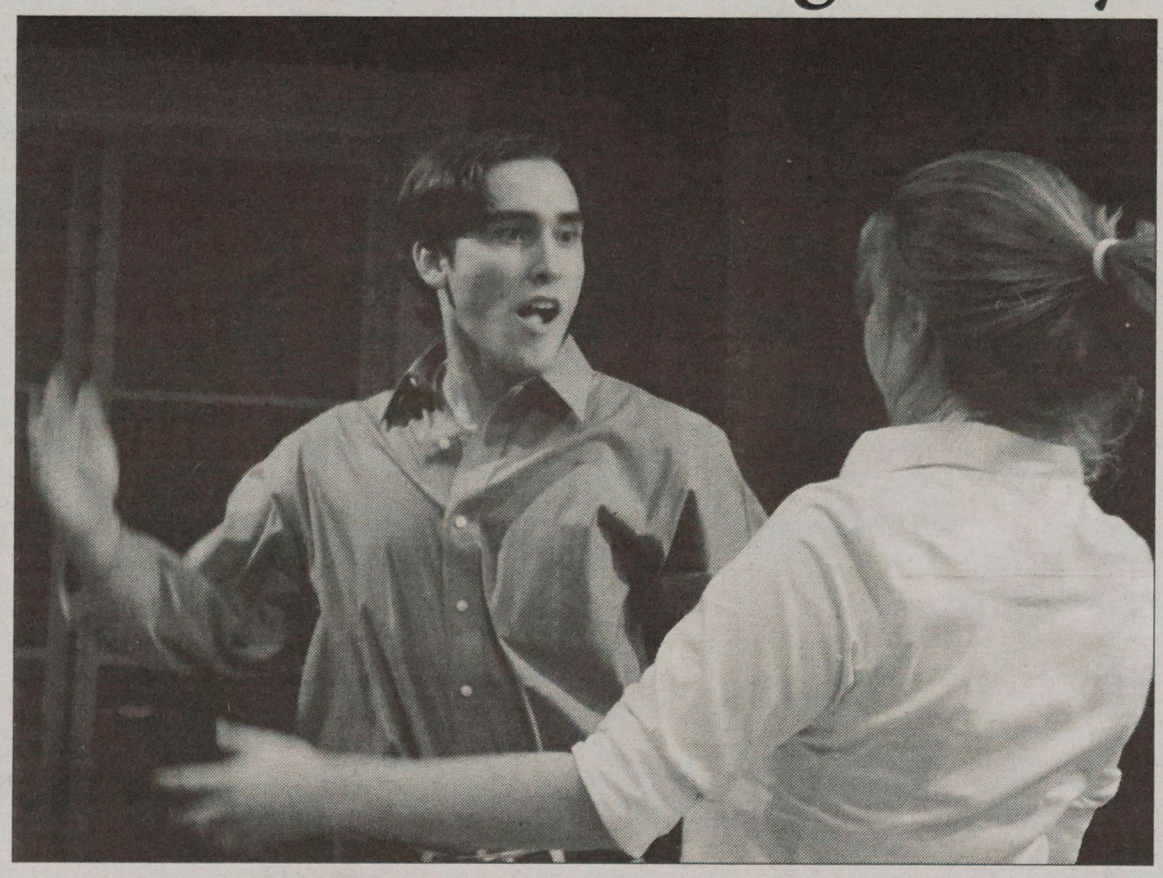
The pursuit of love and all its complications is a heavy matter indeed, but with this theme, the Hepburn Zoo season came to a light start last Thursday in the 10th annual first-year show, entitled "Slightest Folly." The production was directed by Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre Michael Wrynn Doyle '98 and consisted of six scenes.

All the actors did well in matching their dramatic choices to the style of their scene. In "One Tennis Shoe," Starrett Berry '09 and Lauren Fondren '09 played well off of each other to match slapstick hilarity with the piece's absurd premise. Mario Ariza '09 and Gabriel Suarez '09 also chose a broad, comic style in "I Am Not Alone," though their humor relied heavily on the stark contrast of personality between the talkative pizza boy (Ariza) and the lonely apartment dweller (Suarez). Although the scene was funny, certain aspects seemed staged and drawn out.

"Juvenillia," a scene of awkward flirting in a college dorm room, used a more gentle, dialogue-based comedy. Sheyenne Brown '09 gave a nice, naturalistic touch to the scene as a calm, confident, comedic foil to Matt Bell's '09 nervous lover. Kelsey Johnson and Stephanie Spencer, both '09, also chose quieter subtleties in their voice and movement that worked well with the highly poetic dialog of "Nightswim."

Some of the most captivating moments of the production were those of silent feeling that contrasted with the otherwise fast and verbose scenes. In "Wonderful World," the long pause as Elizabeth Zevallos '09 fidgets and squirms while she watches Leah Anderson '09 withdraw into her uptight reverie was the high point of their comedic duo. Equally effective, though in a different manner, was the silent moment in "The Credeaux Canvas" when the artist, Will Damron '09, poses his model, Mercedes Huff '08, for his sketch. The romantic and slightly sad mood of the scene was captured well in his gentle touch and her hesitant compliance.

The set design of "Slightest Folly" was simple, versatile and well-suited to the many different tones of the scenes. Retta Leaphart '06 and Julia Proctor '06.5 designed lighting that complimented the set and transformed the stage's mood for each new scene. The choice of soft, leafy shadows and blue tones perfectly fit the dreamy and poetic dialogue of "Nightswim."



Vlad Lodoaba

Students in Zoo's opening production, "Slightest Folly," use different acting styles to express the various forms of love.

The wide range of styles among scenes allowed for the new Middlebury actors to explore many different choices and tones, but at times the vastly different styles within the scenes drew away from the coherence of the show as a whole. Although the production was at turns comedic, absurd and poetic, the changes between different styles needed more transitions than brief Shakespearean quotes.

Overall, "Slightest Folly" proved to be a diverse and amusing look at love in its many different forms — a delightful beginning to new Middlebury acting careers as well as a new season at the Zoo.

Refugees rock in all-star documentary

By Gabriel Broughton
Staff Writer

The Refugee All-Stars, the new documentary by Banker White '95 and Zach Niles '95.5, took Middlebury's audience into the volatile regions of Sierra Leone and the West-African nation of the Republic of Guinea last Saturday evening. Screened in Dana Auditorium, the film explored the healing powers of music and revealed how creativity can grow in the bleakness of West Africa.

Sierra Leone has been plagued by class conflict since its emergence from British rule in 1961. A corrupt rebel movement in the early 1990s degenerated into systematic looting and violence. The governing power of Sierra Leone changed hands several times in the course of the 10-year civil war and an estimated 50,000 people were killed before the war finally ended in 2002. Another 100,000 people were victims of mutilation. Fearing for their lives, nearly half the population of Sierra Leone was displaced to neighboring countries.

Six of these refugees who were forced to live in the Republic of Guinea formed a band. They called themselves The Refugee All-Stars. The documentary film of the same name follows this group of musicians through the war-ravaged reality of their lives in another man's land. Many of the band members lost family and loved ones in the violence. In the midst of tragedy, the All-Stars demonstrate the overwhelming power of the language of music for healing and rebirth.

This ambitious project began when Niles '96 met a United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHCR) worker who was going to New Guinea. Niles embarked on the first of what would become many scouting trips through Africa, and there met The Refugee All-Stars band. Immediately, he knew this band would be a good subject for a documentary film. From there, the idea matured into a project involving many people, including six Middlebury graduates — Niles himself, White, Jim Bruce '96, Chris Velan '96, Andy Mitchell '96 and Jim Schaaf '95.

The film is shot on a grainy stock reflective of the world in which its characters reside. From this desolate landscape emerges an intimate portrait of a family of musicians creating music both to escape the terror of their situation and to express its pain. One band member described his world as a "civilized prison." Many of the refugees living in Guinea have little hope for their lives beyond simply feeding another meal to what is left of their families. Music, though, offers something more hopeful. The Refugee All-Stars describe their song as "advice" to those willing to listen. It is advice on the dangers and consequences of violence and of human rights abuse in general.

Eventually, The Refugee All-Stars became part of the Human Rights Watch (HRW) International Film Festival. The festival, based in London and New York City, aims at raising awareness for human rights abuses. The films included in the festival attempt to inspire new generations of human rights advocates. The 2005 festival explores concerns as diverse as the ethnic violence in Sri Lanka ("No More Tears Sister") and the controversy over abstinence-only sex education in the United States ("The Education of Shelby Knox").

Last weekend, The Refugee All-Stars came to Middlebury. Bruce, a former Film Studies major who edited and co-produced "Refugee All-Stars," came to introduce his project. As he said, bringing The Refugee All-Stars band to life in film was no easy feat, especially after much important material was lost on their computer. But, in spite of the difficulties, the film has already traveled to two places and is scheduled to appear again abroad. "[The HRW] invited us to participate in their festival, and that was a good chance to screen a rough version of the film. Tomorrow is a sneak preview of a work in progress," said Bruce, "and the final version will be screened in London in November."

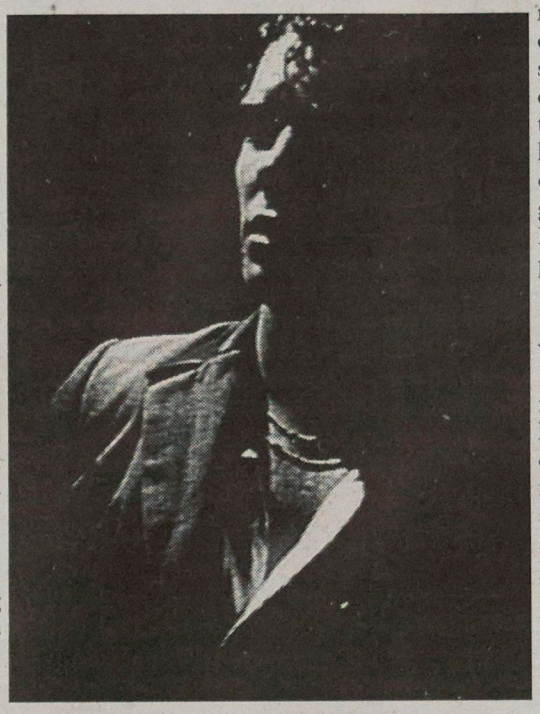
From Sierra-Leone to New Guinea to the HRC Film Festival to Middlebury, the Refugees have certainly come a long way.

Spotlight on...Perry Blackshear

What strikes me as I enter Perry Blackshear's Sunderland basement office are the walls — cream-colored cinderblock is spotted with old film posters, pictures of friends, flyers from campus screenings of his own films and, finally, an old photograph of Perry himself. It was taken almost a decade ago but he still triumphantly holds up a camera, a wide grin plastered on his face. Funny how some things seem to stay the same. Perry Blackshear '05 is probably Middlebury's most promising recently-graduated film talent and the recent winner of the Vermont International Film Festival's Best Student Film award for his short film, "The Patient of Doctor Rice." This year, Blackshear is working for Middlebury as a Digital Media Graduate intern.

***The Middlebury Campus:* How did you get into film, and when did you begin making your own films?**

Perry Blackshear: I started making movies when I was in seventh grade. My mom got me a little quick-cam for my birthday, and I started making movies with my friends. You know, fighting each other with lightsabers, that sort of thing (laughs). Then I sort of grew with the technology. In high school, I began making music videos, class presentations, stuff like that. It was my chance to shine. I had too much stage-fright to do anything else, but I had a lot of creative energy and this was a way that I could perform without actually performing.



***The Campus:* How is working on films at Middlebury, which is not a specialized film school?**

PB: When I first came to Middlebury, I was a Biology major. I figured I could do that and do film on the side, but finally Ted Perry, the former head of the Film and Media Culture department, managed to convince me that I knew almost nothing, which was true. The more I learned about film, the more I realized I had to learn. Middlebury's such a small pond that even if you're not a very big fish, people will pay attention to you. Here you can ask your teachers for advice on scenes, I feel like that would be unheard of at a film school. Also, the equipment here is excellent, it's just underutilized. The lack of people to assist was difficult, but one of the biggest advantages of making a film with just you and no crew is that you can turn on a dime, so with the last movie I made I wrote it as I went along. The other good thing is that you can write parts specifically for people, catch that special thing they have. It was great that I have so many great friends that can throw themselves in front of the camera and just explode. Movies I made here would have been nothing without my friends.

***The Campus:* Your film "The Patient of Doctor Rice" just won the Vermont International Film Festival's student section. Crazy!?**

PB: It felt really surreal. I had never been to a film festival before. Just the whole idea of films and competition, I had never even thought of that. Putting it out there in a different environment where no one knows you is actually kind of terrifying, but it was wonderful. I'm entering more festivals. I've gotten admitted to a couple, rejected from a bunch.

***The Campus:* You graduated with the class of 2005...so why are you still around?**

PB: When I was offered this job what they told me was that they wanted to kick start production at this school. The writing is exceptional, the theory is exceptional and the resources are exceptional, but there just doesn't seem to be that much going on in terms of production. My job is to try to help students with independent projects, help in production classes, tell them all the mistakes I made and how to avoid them and just sort of be here as technical assistance. I get to help kids make movies, and I can't think of a better thing to get paid for.

***The Campus:* So, what's in your future?**

PB: After this year I will hopefully have a couple of films circulating around in various stages of development and I'll send them to festivals, meet people. Really, it's all very vague. It's sort of like they are all shots in the dark on some level but if you throw out enough of them then one might hit. Possibly I'll try to get a job as an editor. In terms of Hollywood, my sense is that the ratio of talent in relation to people in the work force is so tiny. Though, as opposed to being a writer, director or actor — which everyone wants to be — an editor is a real finite skill. It's one of those things that not too many people want to do because it's kind of nerdy and taxing, and that is something that I could get paid for. And you actually have a lot of creative freedom as an editor. You work closely with the most important people on the crew — the director, the producer, the writer — as opposed to being on a huge set where there's a thousand things going on. So I think that would be an honest way to start.

***The Campus:* What's the big dream?**

PB: The dream is to get together with a group of friends from school or people I meet, go to NYC or LA and have the equivalent of a theatre group except with film, where you have your lead actor and actress, a writer, an editor, a musician, a producer etc. You go and you all work together to create short films and send them off to festivals. Essentially, a production company, but in looser terms. Kind of like "Rent."

— Astri vonArbinAhlander

Bill Young & Dancers work on choreography

Courtesy

New York-based choreographer Bill Young brings his talents to Middlebury College as artist in residency this week. Since yesterday, he has been working with students and local dancers in building on their dance technique. Tomorrow and Saturday, his group of dancers, pictured above, present "Rein, Bellow" and "Ripe for Hysteria."

BLOWIN' INDIE WIND

BY BENJAMIN GOLZE

THE ARTIST | BROKEN SOCIAL SCENE
THE ALBUM | BROKEN SOCIAL SCENE
RELEASE DATE | OCTOBER 4, 2005

"Accept the insanity...convince the others it's a dance party...embrace the distortion...try to 'control' the 'confusion'...make sure ghosts doesn't sound like goats."

So read the liner notes to "Broken Social Scene," the long-awaited third album from the Canadian band of the same name. The group achieved indie rock stardom with their 2002 sophomore album, "You Forgot It in People," where they tied the instrumental-heavy dreamscapes of their debut into a collection of incredible rock songs that seemingly overflowed with sound. As the liner notes show, the band has traded in the relative precision of their previous album for a sprawling, less immediately accessible sound that attempts to fill up your stereo's speakers with any noise it can possibly produce. The coherence overrides the confusion, however, making "Broken Social Scene" one of the best recent albums and a worthy successor to the group's earlier work.

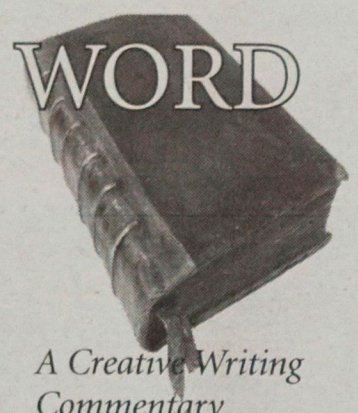
Broken Social Scene has always been a large band — they describe themselves as a "network" — but in the intervening three years since "You Forgot It in People," the number of members has jumped from a previously rowdy seven to a decidedly crowded 17. The sheer amount of musicians is immediately apparent on the album's first two tracks, especially on "Ibi Dreams of Pavement," where an early explosion of guitars leads into a mish-mash of shouted vocals, effects and what sounds like two drum sets.

However messy that sounds, the whole manages to be greater than the sum of its parts, as is evident on "7/4 (Shoreline)," which is easily the album's best track. The song begins with rolling drums and a prominent bass line which provides the foundation for dreamy vocals to build into a climax crammed with guitars, horns and every kind of percussion imaginable. The lyrics themselves are nearly unintelligible — the chorus repeats "It's coming on hard" or "It's coming on high." Whichever it is, it doesn't matter; either one would be pretty suitable to the sheer volume that the band produces.

"Fire Eye'd Boy" and "Superconnected" fall into the same classic Broken Social Scene vein — loud, large and upbeat. But the band also taps several other genres en route, such as electronic environment on "Hotel" and hip-hop vibe on the jumbled "Windsurfing Nation." The beat from the second segues into the fantastic "Swimmers" ("You Forgot It in People" fans think "Anthems for a Seventeen Year-Old Girl"), where overlaid vocals from one of the group's female members sail on top of a Pacific groove from bass and horns.

In all, "Broken Social Scene" flows nicely, and the continuity is threatened only twice on the laid-back jam "Handjobs for the Holidays" and the eerie "Bandwitch," both which are simply too long. The latter is a sparse, confusing track that takes seven minutes to get to where it's going, which seems to be nowhere. Several critics have jumped on "Broken Social Scene" as overextending the band's sound. Both of these songs show what happens when the group is unable to rein in their eccentricities.

On the other hand, their closer "It's All Gonna Break" saves the album from that last stumbling block and shows that Broken Social Scene can, in fact, extend its enormity over a song of fairly epic 10-minute-length. The song's notes read, "try to sound like Bob Seger on acid." It is hard to say what that means exactly, but every time the singer shouts "it's all gonna break" and the band crashes into an outburst of blaring horns and swirling guitars, you will realize that with music this good it is hard to care.



A Creative Writing Commentary

BY ABIGAIL MITCHELL

"They ate hot cereal made out of whole wheat that was literally whole and slightly boiled ... Ivan's crew once had to wash their excrement in salt water and sift it with a sieve. What remained was cooked again."

—From *April Fool's Day*, by Josip Novakovich

Last Thursday, Chateau Grand Salon opened its doors to Croatian-born writer Josip Novakovich. Having immigrated to the U.S. at the age of twenty, Novakovich has published a novel, three short story collections, two narrative essay collections, as well as three textbooks on the art of fiction writing. Among many other prestigious awards, Novakovich received a Guggenheim Fellowship and two National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships. Currently, he teaches in the MFA program at Penn State University.

Novakovich proved to be no exception to the often-observed phenomenon of writers doubling as stand-up comedians. The small crowd of literary enthusiasts gathered in the salon could not help laughing as Novakovich sarcastically hailed America "a great country where you can wear a tee-shirt all year long." Of course, he was poking fun at America's unceasing quest for climate control. Back in Croatia, he told us, one wore layers in the winter and went naked in the summer. Much to our amusement, Novakovich then removed his sweater and unbuttoned his collared shirt.

To begin Novakovich read from *April Fool's Day*, his epic novel tracing Yugoslav history through the life of protagonist Ivan Dolinar. Novakovich then read from his latest work, a collection of short fiction entitled "Infidelities." The excerpt he chose to read featured the sordid sexual affair of a female Bosnian immigrant. Two paragraphs into the story, Novakovich stopped suddenly and asked our permission to leave the room in order to blow his nose.

Novakovich's unique perspective as an immigrant and ex-patriot give him that perceptiveness of American culture that only non-natives posess — Nabokov and Hemon are other examples. The fluidity, wit and art of Novakovich's prose make it hard to believe that English is his second language. When asked why he chose to write in English, Novakovich said, "It just seemed natural after having studied for five years at American schools."

Novakovich's prose is largely influenced by the absurdism of Kafka and Gogol. Citing *Dead Souls*, Novakovich explained that he wanted to "make fun of Yugoslavia the way Gogol made fun of Russia."

"My approach was fairly satirical," Novakovich admitted. When asked why his writing is so scorchingly caustic, Novakovich laughed and jokingly said, "Meanness definitely works better."

Kim-Trang has an eye for blindness

By Melissa Marshall
Staff Writer

Tran Kim-Trang, professor of Art and Media Studies at Scripps College in California, emigrated from Vietnam to the United States in 1975. She received her MFA from the California Institute of the Arts in 1993. Her video works have been exhibited internationally and have been screened at prestigious museum galleries, including the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Biennial. This evening, Tran will be screening three of her seven completed tapes from her series "The Blindness Theory": "Ocularis: Eye Surrogates," "Ekleipsis" and "Alexia: Metaphor and Word-Blindness." Each short deals with a different type of blindness and obscured perception. Staff writer Melissa Marshall had the opportunity to speak with Tran about her work and future aspiriations.

The Middlebury Campus: How did you get involved in film?

Tran Kim-Trang: It started in my undergrad years at The University of Idaho. I transferred there for art, video art in particular. After that I moved out to California with my mom and looked into graduate schools there, deciding on the California Institute of the Arts. In 1992 I made my first film– the Introduction to the Blindness Theory.

The Campus: Could you explain a little bit about your work?

TKT: The "Introduction to The Blindness Theory" is an outline about what's to come. The first part deals with cosmetic surgery, especially regarding Asians who have eyelid surgery because it's like trying to erase one's identity. The next one is focused on sexuality — not only the physical condition of becoming blind in the advanced stages of AIDS, but also the government's blindness towards women who have AIDS. The third one is about video surveillance — what we're able to see and not see and if the truth is complete just through visual information. The fourth tape deals with hysterical blindness in a tribe of Cambodians in Long Beach, California, while the fifth deals with language especially in terms of metaphors. The sixth video examines physical alexia — a condition where people who have suffered a stroke lose the ability to perceive language. The very last one is more of a conventional documentary about a blind guitar player. My work is an investigation of physical and metaphorical blindness.

The Campus: Are you currently working on any productions?

TKT: Right now I'm working on the epilogue, the eigth tape to the series of "The Blindness Theory". I'm also working on a feature narrative script of my mother titled "Call me Sugar."

The Campus: What inspires you to make your films?

TKT: Ideally, I'm trying to reach everyone, but more specifically I'm trying to bridge the gap between the art world and the world of political activism. I find, in the art world, that there are not a lot of politics discussed while in the political scene there is very little understanding about aesthetics.

Lewis delights in pleasing the crowd

By Ian Thomas Fleishman
Staff Writer

The Paul Lewis concert of Beethoven sonatas on Friday night at the Concert Hall at the Center for the Arts was likely the single most enjoyable performance that I have attended yet this year.

Certainly, there have been no small number of piano recitals in this year's concert series, and many still to follow, but this striking young Brit was not to be missed. From the very first notes, his performance of Beethoven was both playful and pensive, grounded on a solid command of the keys.

This recital is the first of three that Lewis will perform at Middlebury this year. Beginning last year, he has been realizing his dream of recording all of Beethoven's 32 piano sonatas and performing them throughout the world. Other areas to enjoy Lewis' wonderful performance include the United Kingdom, Australia and Europe. Middlebury is Lewis' primary venue in the United States, though he also plans to stop in San Francisco and Vancouver, British Columbia.

Beethoven's influence on the contemporary piano composition cannot be underestimated and Lewis' undertaking is ambitious and exciting.

His next performances in Middlebury will be held on March 16 and May 12, and both will consist exclusively of Beethoven sonatas.

Despite the unvaried nature of the program, Lewis' performance was delightful. His composure on the stage varied from an infectiously casual ease to an agitated corporal involvement with the more somber musical passages.

In spite of the difficult nature of certain pieces, particularly "Waldstein," Sonata no. 21, Lewis engaged his audience entirely and met hearty applause at the end of his program — an extremely enthusiastic public response, which sadly lost fervor too soon to inspire the performer to an encore. While it would be nice to hear Lewis play something other than Beethoven, in the meantime it is an enjoyable privilege to witness his rendition of the illustrious composer's works.

Vlad Lodoaba

Britain-native Paul Lewis played the first of three Beethoven concerts last weekend in Middlebury College's Center for the Arts.

Alex Yule

The Mae Shi members Ezra Buchla, Brad Breeck, Tim Byron and Jeff Byron hammered out an impressively bad noise before descending into a general naked ruckus in front of a half-amused audience.

Mae-Shi concert flops and flails

By Penny Chen
Staff Writer

Walking into Coltrane Lounge on Friday night, one would have been surprised by the people in the half-empty room attempting to dance to the ruckus created by several half-naked bodies on stage. The latter was a band called The Mae Shi.

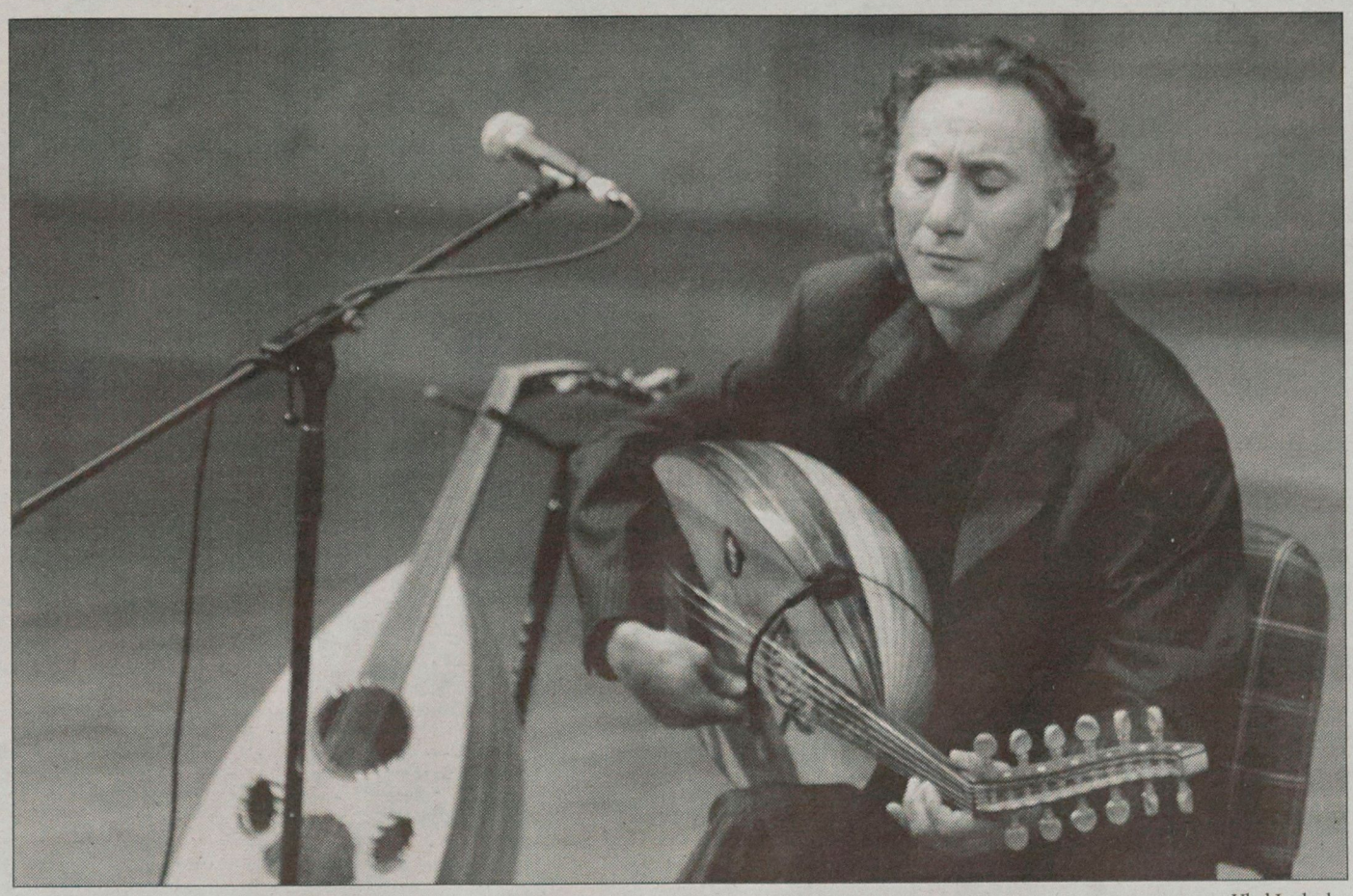
The Los Angeles quintet, although pleasing the majority of the indie rock fans, was more of a poor example of performance art than anything resembling a rock concert. Flailing around in any combination of no-shirt, no-pants and eventually no-clothes states, the band shared their notions of music with the unfortunate audience .

Their interesting combination of guitar, bass, drums, tambourines, noisemakers, computer programs, glockenspiel, omnichord and vocals created a general "noise" with overtones of electronic hardcore funk-rock.

It must be noted that they did drift into a more polished sound reminiscent of their studio recorded albums once in a while, with somewhat inspiring drum and guitar lines playing off of each other, but they fell back, seconds later, into a chaotic mess.

As senior Ian Fleishman '06 so poignantly put it, "Le concert était formidablement affreux" (The concert was superbly awful). Chris Lizotte '07 posed the question "Where do we draw the line between 'organized noise' and music?"

Iraqi music in a time of war



Vlad Lodoaba

Rahim Alhaj, who began playing the oud at the age of nine, brought his peaceful tunes to Middlebury to remind the audience that there remains music in his war-torn country. He believes playing in a time of war allows people to connect.

Editors' A&E picks
for the week of Nov. 3 - 10

04

BILL YOUNG/COLLEEN THOMAS AND DANCERS
8-10 p.m. Nov. 4/5 in the Center for the Arts Dance Theatre, Tickets $12
New York-based modern dance troupe Bill Young/Colleen Thomas and Dancers come to campus for a 3-day residency Nov. 2-5. The company's Friday and Saturday performances will include their highly praised work "Rein Below" which showcases the group's revolutionary contemporary choreography bursting with athleticism, sensuality and grace. Also don't miss the company's demonstration today at 12:20 p.m. entitled "Contemporary Dance — International Perspectives."

05

BORN INTO BROTHELS SCREENING
3-5:30 p.m. and 8-10:30 p.m. in Dana Auditorium
Free
"Born Into Brothels," winner of the Oscar for Best Documentary of 2004, reveals the story of several children of prostitutes in Calcutta and their quest to find peace and happiness through photography. One of the film's co-producers, alumna Pamela Tanner Boll '78, will introduce the film.

06

MUIR STRING QUARTET
3-5 p.m. Center for the Arts Concert Hall
Free
The string quartet of Lucia Lin, violin; Peter Zazofsky, violin; Steven Ansell, viola; Michael Reynolds, cello; and Maria Lambros, viola will showcase works by Haydn, Debussy and Brahms. Their group, named after the celebrated naturalist, explorer and Sierra Club founder John Muir, supports conservation organizations and programs for young musicians around the country.

09

FILM ARTIST EVE SUSSMAN
7:30-10 p.m. in Dana Auditorium
Next Wednesday, film artist Eve Sussman will screen some of her highly acclaimed recent work and give an accompanying lecture. Included in the screening will be the video "89 seconds in Alcazar." The short, which debuted at the 2004 Whitney Biennial, presents a ten-minute loop based on Velázquez's "Las Meninas," with actors playing members of the Hapsburg family. She will also show bits of her work-in-progress, "Raptus," an opera loosely inspired by a Jacques-Louis David painting.

09

WABENO
Nov. 9/10/11/12/13 in Hepburn Zoo
10 Middlebury College students present an interactive night of theater that will leave all participants covered in paint. Organizers have been rather secretive about the details but a Zoo event involving paint and mess certainly promises to be fun.

Art N' About

WITH JOYCE MAN

Dance, and dance of all kinds is very happening. US television audiences have been getting their fair load of salsa, jive, hip-hop and even krumping with Fox Network's "So You Think You Can Dance" competitions and ABC's summer hit series "Dancing With the Stars." Last week on Oct. 26, Zeitgeist Films released Daniel Geller and Dayna Goldfine's spot-on documentary on the revolutionary twentieth-century Ballet Russes. Here at Middlebury on a completely different spectrum, dance hypes up next week as we play host to artist-in-residence Bill Young of Bill Young and Dancers from New York City.

And from now until mid-November, what's happening in dance will be very happening in the Netherlands — at The Hague to be precise. The Holland Dance Festival is celebrating its 10th anniversary with a full bill of programs under the grand, if slightly over bearing, banner of "Dance Approved." Their task, as Samuel Wuersten, Artistic and Managing Director of the festival announced, is to reassure the pessimists that dance is not dead, that it is "not going anywhere, neither to the museum, nor to the morgue, but right onto the illuminated stages of our beautiful venues."

Judging from the examples mentioned above, such a theme seems well-timed. Perhaps we really have run into a high tide of confusion in dance. In a world where ballroom mixes with reality TV and classical ballet is pirouetting into contemporary movement, where are we placing definitions of dance and how are we siphoning the talent from the pretenders? Mr. Wuersten says that "moderates… claim with ninety-nine point nine percent certainly that no ground-breaking creative talent in dance can be expected anytime soon." That is dire news indeed for an art form so dynamic and enthusiastically received by popular audiences today.

The Hague, of all places, is not where one expects this debate to find closure. London, New York and Moscow are the more pronounced movers and shakers, if you will, of dance discussion. Nevertheless, the Holland Dance Festival is moving ahead full-steam, and brings up two great reasons to watch.

Who better to open the three-week festival but the Nederlands Dans Theater Two (NDR II) with choreography by Prague-born master of dance Jirí Kylián, who studied with the Royal Ballet School in London and the Stuttgart Ballet. The NDR II has become known over the years as a premier dance company, pushing the erotic movement of dance and bending the art form without departing from its core values. As a gem of the Netherlands' national pride and a strong provocative company of fine contemporary dance that is continuously provoking redefinition of dance, NDR II served as an approvable start to "Dance Approved."

In a collection of works by Russell Maliphant on Oct. 31, the festival spotlighted Sylvie Guillem, that much-celebrated, much-critiqued ballet gem of London's Royal Ballet, whose fame got her voted as one of *Time Magazine's* European heroes. Known for her gymnastic approach to ballet and extreme elasticity in movement and extension, she has for the past fifteen years thrived in the coveted ranks of The Royal Ballet's principal dancers.

In tandem with these openers that hone in on the festival's theme are over 70 workshops for everyone from children to advanced dancers, as well as a much-anticipated dance parade, which took place five days ago, on Oct. 30. No matter what happens at "Dance Approved," the constant movement of dance today prevents its definition. However, Mr. Wuersten is correct that dance is alive and well. For the noble attempt to disprove that "crisis in dance," we fully approve.

Midd netters split four against NESCAC rivals

Women's volleyball set to travel to Colby this weekend for division tourney

By Sarah Poling Luehrman
Staff Writer

The Panthers' regular season ended Tuesday with a 3-0 win over in-state rival St. Michael's. Last weekend's NESCAC Quad at Williams gave the Panthers a taste of the competition they will face next weekend when they travel to Colby for the NESCAC Championship tournament.

After a 3-0 loss to Williams last Wednesday, Oct. 26 and a 3-0 loss to Colby on Friday, Oct. 28, the Panthers went on to sweep Bates in three games and beat Bowdoin 3-1 on Saturday, Oct. 29, which were "two solid wins," said captain Jamie Wong '06, that "will help us...on Friday [in the conference quarterfinals]."

Middlebury's second match against Williams proved no easier than the first, and a 19-30 loss in the first game did not help. However, the Panthers woke up in the second game and tightened the score margin a little more on the Ephs, though they still dropped it 28-30, and the third game ended the match, 26-30. Amy Heath '07 put down nine kills throughout the match, and Lindsay Patterson '09, proving to be one of this season's most versatile players, followed close behind with eight kills and led the defense with 17 digs. Wong contributed 16 digs, and Olivia Minkhorst '09 added 15.

The Panthers found themselves back at Williams only two days later, this time to face all three Maine NESCAC colleges one after the other. They faced this year's first seed Colby for the first time all season. They played a difficult match in which they "couldn't quite get a game from [Colby]," commented Head Coach Sarah Raunecker. "Then we just lost it in the third."

Indeed, after losing the first two with a relatively close scoring margin, 24-30 and 24-30, Middlebury dropped game three 14-30. Captain Lacee Patterson '06 and Patterson '09 held the defense together with 15 and 19 digs, respectively, but the level of offense throughout was unusually low. The team "didn't feel that we played all that well overall against Colby," according to Raunecker, though the Mules are indeed a very strong team this year, thus far undefeated in the conference.

On Saturday, however, the Panthers took care of the rest of Maine without much trouble. Bates, though currently resting in the bottom half of the NESCAC ranks, surprised Middlebury with an early lead in the first game, forcing the Panthers to come from behind to win it 30-28. "We've had some trouble pushing through once we reach the mid 20s," says Raunecker, as evidenced in many recent mid-match slumps. "So the fact that we were behind in the late 20s and came back to win was a good sign."

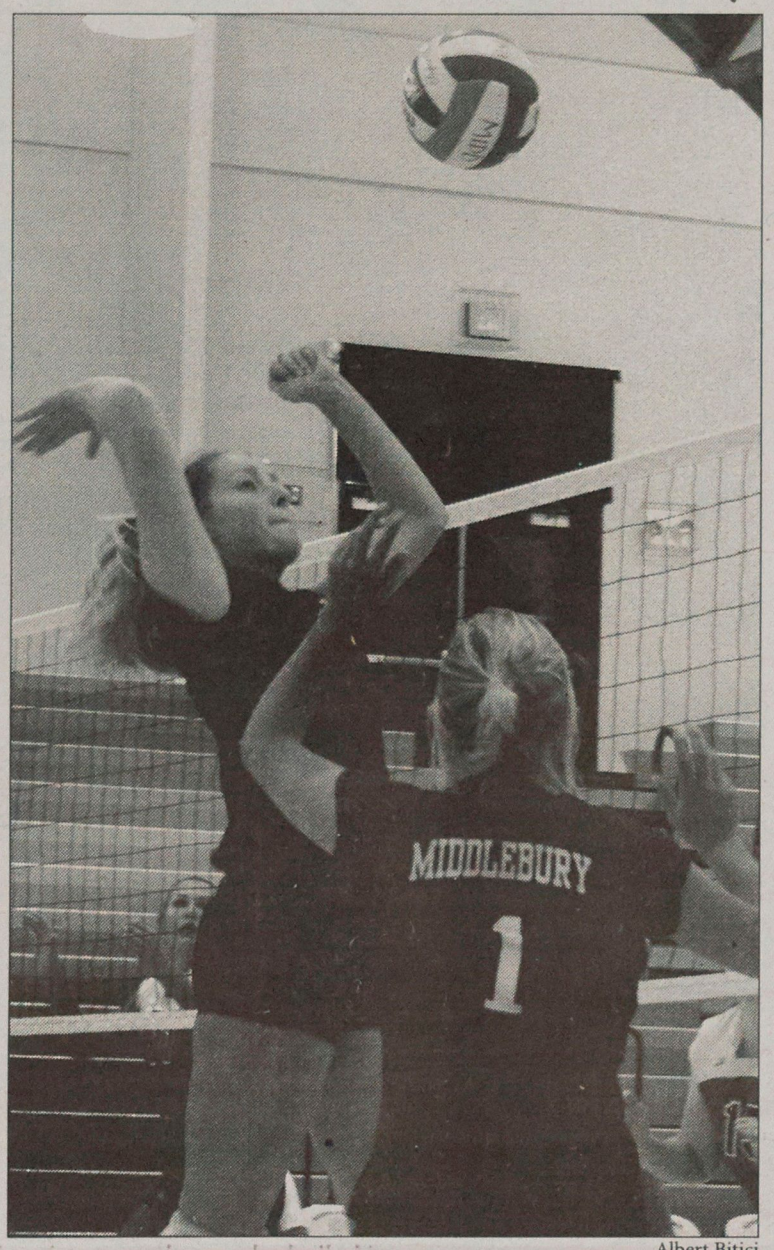
Indeed, the Panthers had no further trouble with the Bobcats and proceeded to take games two and three 30-19 and 30-15, achieving their best team hitting percentage of the season in the process. Patterson '09 delivered 11 kills, Fisher and Jackie Edwards '08 supporting her with eight each, and Patterson '06 and Wong contributed 13 and 15 digs, respectively.

Bowdoin, after dropping the first game 30-22, surprised Middlebury with 25-30 win in game two. Rather than allow the third set to deteriorate into yet another statistic of lost focus late in the match, the Panthers tightened up their game and determined not to let the momentum get away from them.

With renewed concentration, they broke through and won games three and four, 30-25 and 30-27. Patterson '06 played an especially strong match, totaling nine kills, 35 assists and 22 digs. Fisher tallied 12 kills, Patterson '09 had 7 kills and 17 digs, and Amy McCowan '08 and Wong contributed 14 digs each.

Middlebury is now tied for third seed with Amherst, Connecticut College, Trinity and Williams, which is a sign of tough competition ahead for the NESCAC title. Middlebury will face Trinity in the opening match on Friday night, a team to whom they have already lost twice this season.

"Both times it was in five games, and it was early in the season," says Raunecker, speculating on Middlebury's chances against the Bantams. "We won some games big, and lost some games big to them, so it should be another great match." If the Panthers win, they will go on to face either Amherst, whom they have beaten twice, or Tufts in the semifinals.



Albert Bitici

Lacee Patterson '06 and the women's v-ball team are seeded third in the NESCAC tournament and will take on Trinity in the first round on Nov. 5.

Look for the new issue of...

also

the middlebury campus magazine

hits newsstands the first week of December

Panthers nearly pull off impossible upset

Middlebury holds top-ranked and undefeated Trinity Bantams in check

Albert Bitici

Quarterback Tiger Lyon '07 could get nothing going offensively against Trinity, although the Panthers battled all day, only falling by two touchdowns.

By Jonathan Brand
Staff Writer

For three quarters on Saturday, the Panthers had all of Alumni Stadium believing the football team could pull off what would have unquestionably been the biggest win of the Bob Ritter Era. The fourth quarter, however, grounded everyone in reality. The Trinity Bantams showed the crowd of 950 why they have been the best team in the NESCAC for the past three seasons, dominating the time of possession in the fourth frame en route to a 14-0 victory.

On a perfect late October afternoon, Middlebury (1-5) became the 28th straight victim of Trinity (6-0), who boasts the longest active winning streak in Division III. Their streak is second in all of college football only to Matt Leinart and the USC Trojans, who have won 30 consecutive games.

Trinity's offense came into the game ranked first in scoring offense in the NESCAC, averaging 33.8 points per game, but the Panther defense limited them to just two touchdowns. Although Trinity amassed 314 total yards of offense, 195 of which were on the ground, the Panthers defense held their ground in crucial situations.

"The team came out fired up," said linebacker and co-captain Coleman Hutzler '06, who had an interception, a sack and 11 tackles to lead the Panthers. "We played at a good level but came up short."

With just under four minutes remaining in the third quarter, Trinity held a 6-0 lead and had the ball on fourth and goal at the Middlebury one-yard line. As the crowd rose to its feet to unnerve Trinity, the Bantams directly snapped the ball to running back Gennaro Leo. Leo, who finished with 102 yards on the ground, rushed to the left and looked for a path into the end zone but was denied by Eric Woodring '08 and John Lanahan '08, who stuffed him at the line of scrimmage.

The Bantam offense came alive in the final quarter, however, and their rushing game finally proved to be too much for Middlebury. On Trinity's first series of the period, running backs Chandler Bernard, Jordan Quinones and Leo combined to move the ball down to the Panther one-yard line. Quarterback Josh Pitcher capped the drive with a one-yard pass to wide receiver Chris Olenoski for the second score of the afternoon.

Nevertheless, holding the best offense in NESCAC to the second-fewest points they have scored all season is an accomplishment to be proud of.

"Our defense came up big," said Head Coach Bob Ritter. "They were excellent."

The offense, conversely, struggled mightily after their 41-point romp over Bates last weekend. Against Trinity's number two-ranked defense in the NESCAC, the Panthers only managed 89 total yards on offense. Tiger Lyon '06 was 13 for 25 for 47 yards passing, but was sacked four times for 37 yards.

Stefan Hrdina 'YEAR continued his successful season, rushing for 77 yards against the top rushing defense in the NESCAC, but the woeful passing game and good defense by Trinity made the second half a chore for the junior running back.

"He did a great job, played hard and tough," said Ritter, "and he earned every yard."

The Panthers had great field position throughout the first half, but only managed to get into the Trinity red zone just once. Following an 11-yard punt return by Ryan Armstrong '06 with 14:12 left in the second quarter, the Panthers advanced the ball down to the Trinity 17-yard line. But an 8-yard sack by Trinity inside linebacker Avon Morgan pushed the offense just out of the range of kicker Steve Hauschka '07 and the Panthers were forced to punt.

"We moved okay on offense," said Ritter, "but the big plays didn't get done."

The Panthers will get another opportunity this weekend to prove that their offensive performance at Bates was not a fluke. The Panthers host their final home game of the season against the last-place Hamilton Continentals and hope that they can continue their strong play of the past two weeks in the annual Rocking Chair game.

"We have to come with the mentality we had today in the next two games," said Ritter. "It's the last chance for the seniors [to play at home] and we want to send them out with a win."

Women's soccer frozen out by Polar Bears

By James Kerrigan
Staff Writer

After a strong 2004 season which ended with a second place finish, the 2005 women's soccer team could not advance past the conference quarterfinals against Bowdoin.

Middlebury built momentum coming into the playoffs with a strong performance against Plattsburg, followed by a win over Trinity. Even though Plattsburg netted the winner in overtime, the Panthers put together a quality performance. Caity Abshere '07 scored the opening goal early in the second half on an assist from Caitlin Parker '08. Plattsburg answered with a goal of their own just minutes later, but ultimately Middlebury fell 2-1 in overtime.

Piggybacking off the strong midweek performance, the Panthers outshot Trinity 22-5 on their way to a 2-1 overtime win. The Bantams broke the scoreless tie early in the second half, but the Panthers refused to give up. They fought back with a goal in the 77th minute from Erin Oliver '07, and the 1-1 score stood through the end of regulation. But just 51 seconds into the extra period, Caitlin Parker '08, who assisted the game-tying goal, broke through the Bantam defense and ran in uncontested. With only the keeper to beat, she slotted the ball into the lower corner and helped Middlebury earn their fourth NESCAC win of the season.

Hoping to build off the two strong games leading up to the tournament, Middlebury traveled to Bowdoin for the quarterfinals. Unfortunately, this theory only lasted 47 seconds when Bowdoin blasted a shot over first-year goalkeeper Natasha Groblewski to take a 1-0 lead, and the Polar Bears never looked back. According to Coach Kim, this early goal disrupted any chance of Middlebury establishing a flow: "We were not fully focused at the start of the match, and Bowdoin made us pay for it right away. Their goal inside the first minute made it difficult for us to establish a rhythm."

Women's Soccer

Saturday, October 29

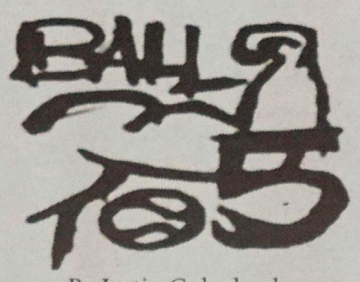
Middlebury	1
Bowdoin	5

Earlier in the season Middlebury notched an important 3-2 home win over the Polar Bears. When it mattered, though, Middlebury could not compete with the Polar Bears to quite the same extent. Coach Kim commented, "They were very fired up after we beat them in the regular season, and their intensity level put us under tremendous pressure all over the field. Our girls deserve a lot of credit for playing through the entire match, refusing to wilt despite the fact that Bowdoin's finishing was right on." Right on it was, the Polar Bears converted four of their six first half shots to jump out to a large, early lead. Erin Pittenger '07 scored Middlebury's only goal, but it was not nearly enough as Middlebury's season ended with a 5-1 loss.

In retrospect, even the tough loss on Sunday does not take much away from an otherwise solid season for the Panthers, finishing with a 7-6-2 record. Coach Kim noted, "There are a lot of positives to be taken from this season, and unfortunately the quality of our play was not evident in our overall record. We had tremendous senior leadership."

Vlad Lodoaba

Caity Abshere '07 scored in a recent overtime loss to Plattsburgh, but could do nothing to stop Bowdoin from runninga away 5-1 winners in their NESCAC first-round match in Maine last week.



By Justin Golenbock

The organizational contrast of ingenuity vs. chaos that is the Patriots vs. the Red Sox took another turn for the dramatic this past Sunday. In one of the most stunning and inspirational sports comebacks of my lifetime, Patriot Defensive Captain Tedy Bruschi returned after suffering a stroke and undergoing surgery to repair a hole in his heart, helping lead the Pats to an emotional 21-16 victory over division rival Buffalo.

The team, at 4-3 despite a rash of major injuries and a brutal early schedule, looks poised to win its third straight division title. Bruschi symbolizes everything the Kraft-Belichek dynasty has stood for: the ultimate winner, undersized and underrated, he took a pay cut to stay in New England and brought adoring fans three championships.

Over a million of us cut school or work and braved subteen temperatures just to catch a glimpse of the "Brusch" during the 30 seconds we saw of the duck boats during their first championship parade. And millions more of us will come out in force to vote him into the White House, republican or democrat, in 2008. And again in 2012.

After the football game, those who tuned in for the soap opera heard wunderkind General Manager Theo Epstein resign from the Red Sox, two years after he helped bring them their first World Series win in 86 years. Forget about the brain trust's stupidity in letting go their most talented young executive…but why the hell is a 31-year-old from Brookline leaving his self-described "dream job" with an offer of $1.5 million per year on the table?

Certainly from the "Massholes" last year who jumped on Pedro for jumping to the Mets, I'd expect the same treatment to be heaped on Theo. Of course, this is the same guy who offered his best player for Mike Cameron's broken jaw and Aubrey Huff's broken bat at the trade deadline during a playoff run, and also constructed a bullpen over the last two years with names including: Terry Adams, Pedro Astacio, Frank Castillo, Alan Embree, Jeremi Gonzalez, John Halama, Byung-Hyun Kim, Curtis Lescanic, Matt Mantei, Cla Meredith, Ramiro Mendoza, Blaine Neal and Mike Remlinger. Not a one could eclipse Rich Garces' ginormous shadow.

So what have we learned? Other than that righteous indignation is neither that informative nor funny? Only that Tedy Bruschi will end up running this ship of state, one way or another, and that it's actually much easier than we thought to miss Dan Duquette… on that I stand corrected.

Of course, if Seymour and Manny return, it's all moot. But keep your fingers crossed, Boston, knock on wood, throw salt over the right shoulder, etc. Titletown's in for at least a few more wild years.

Field Hockey wins seventh straight

Red-hot Berrien '08 paces Panthers in NESCAC tournament

By Ryan W. Reese
Sports Editor

Seven consecutive wins. The streak just became more impressive. The Middlebury women's field hockey team dominated Rensselaer in a 4-1 win during its last regular season contest before diving head-first into the postseason with a 3-0 shutout win over Bates. There was never any doubt in either of these games and the team is strong, stronger than ever.

With an incredible wave of momentum running through the Panthers' veins and stellar play all over the field, these women look solid and determined to make a run during the last two rounds of the NESCAC tournament next weekend.

Field Hockey

Wednesday, October 26

Middlebury	4
Rensselaer	1

Sunday, October 30

Middlebury	3
Bates	0

The regular season finale against Rensselaer was flat-out intimidating. The Panthers had the Red Hawks in an absolute strangle hold from the get-go. Middlebury piled up a remarkable 30 shots on goal while the Red Hawks only managed three throughout the entire game.

The Red Hawks were quite unfortunate in the fact that they caught Reid Berrien '08 at her best. The sophomore goal machine scored a hat trick to move her season total up to an astonishing 13.

Allison Smith '06 knocked in a goal of her own as the quick-footed Connecticut-native sliced through the Red Hawk defense with ease. The amazing passes and set-up abilities of senior Channing Weymouth, who coincidentally leads the Panthers in assists, led to two of the Berrien goals. This deadly pair is only getting better as the season advances and there was little doubt throughout the team that this duo would rock the rest of the NESCAC during the championship tourney.

The news came in later that the Panthers would be facing Bates in the first round of the NESCAC tournament. Only a week earlier, Middlebury handed the Bearcats an embarrassing 8-1 loss.

It is always difficult to play a team more than once over the course of the season, but there was no doubt that the Bearcats would be coming into this contest with fresh memories of a large neon "8" flashing on the visitors' side of their scoreboard.

It took all of one minute and two seconds for the rout to get underway as Berrien, the offensive juggernaut, made good on a beautiful Smith pass in the circle. Then, Smith assisted on an emotionally charged goal by none other than Ashley Lyddane '06. The senior returned to action after a devestating ACL injury took her away from action for all of October.

One more goal was to be had by Middlebury on the day and Berrien was the one to claim it. With two goals on the day, her season total reached a soaring 15. Fifteen goals in 15 games — not too shabby. Lyddane's presence on the field and Berrien's ridiculous scoring run can only help this Middlebury team that seems to be picking up steam in more ways than one as the NESCAC semifinal approaches.

Albert Bitici
Katherine Entwhistle '08 helped guide the Panthers into the NESCAC semis.

The Panthers will head up north to the grounds of Bowdoin for the remainder of the championship tournament. They will first play Williams on Saturday, and a win against the Ephs would place the Panthers in Sunday's championship game against either Wesleyan or the homestanding Polar Bears.

There is a good possibility that this year's tourney will come down to a grudge match between Middlebury and Bowdoin. With the Panthers running on all cylinders and motivated with thoughts of avenging an early season double overtime loss, there is little doubt that Sunday's final would be one for the ages.

XC runs into NESCAC buzzsaw

By Daniel Berkman
Staff Writer

Running conditions were close to ideal for this year's NESCAC cross country championship at Wesleyan University. The day was overcast and the course was dry despite a couple of stream crossings in the middle of the race. Considering all the rain and cold weather the past few weeks, every NESCAC team was looking forward to having fast times and big results. The Middlebury men's and women's cross country were right in the middle of the competition this year with the women finishing fifth out of 11 teams and the men finishing sixth out of 11 teams.

Andi Giddings '07 led the women's team as she has for most of the year. She finished 12th overall with a strong time of 18:39. Makely Lyon '07 and Alexandra Krieg '09 finished one second apart for 17th and 19th place overall with times of 18:59 and 19:00, respectively. Senior Captain Claire Anderson came in fourth on the team and 35th overall with a solid time of 19:35. Rounding out the top five was Erin Archard '07 with a time of 19:33, good for 39th place.

Even though the Middlebury women had three runners in the top 20, it was hard to compete with the Williams squad who won the race with four runners in the top 10. Senior captain Jenny Jorvig put the race into a good perspective: "Everyone was happy with individual times, but we need to work better as a team. Our goal is to pull together in the next couple weeks to earn a spot for Nationals." With the women's past success, earning one of three regional spots to Nationals, this goal seems very attainable.

On the men's side, Jimmy Butcher '08 once again paced his way to a solid finish with a time of 26:23 for the 8k race. He finished first for the team and 18th overall. Coming in a tight pack was Garrott Kuzzy '06 in 25th place with a time of 26:38 and Will MacDonough in 29th place with a time of 26:42. Captain Nolan Sandygren came in fourth for the team and 40th overall with a time 26:54. Rounding out the top five in scoring for the team was first-year Pete Murphy with a time of 26:57, good for 45th place overall.

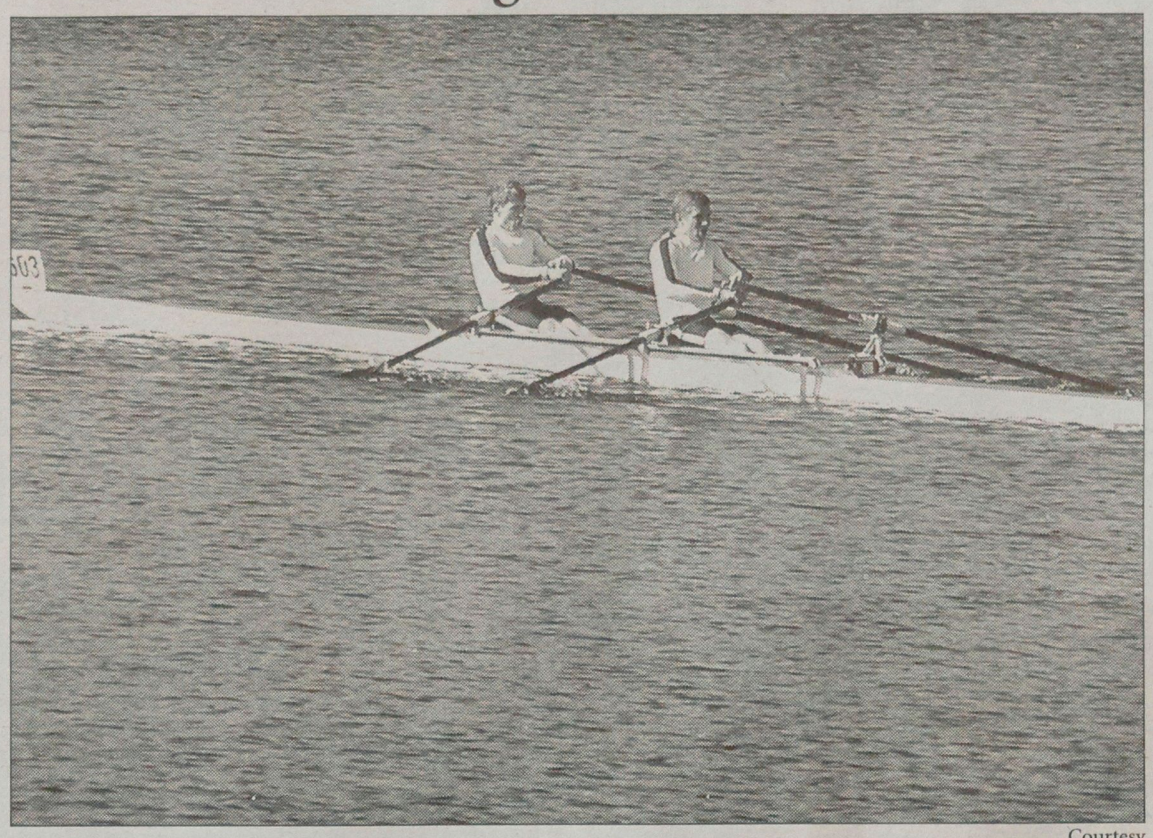
Senior Captain Baker Lyon compared this year's NESCAC race with years past. "Overall, this was one our best performances [at NESCACs] and a definite improvement from last year. Yet we are still looking to knock off a team or two more at Regionals to get a spot for Nationals." Like the women's team, the men's team is looking to continue its improvement in upcoming postseason races.

Both teams will race ECACs this next weekend with the big Regional race the following week. This late in the season, both teams are starting to "taper" their workouts in practice, so their legs will be less fatigued for these big races. The Middlebury times in the next few weeks should be dropping with the bigger competition and fresher legs.

Courtesy
The men's and women's cross country teams finished sixth and fifth, respetively, in the NESCAC championships.

Rowers wrap up in style

Head of the Fish signals close of fall season



Courtesy

The Middlebury crew teams concluded their successful fall seasons in Saratoga Springs N.Y. this past weekend.

By Stephanie Pritchard
Staff Writer

The weekend before Halloween and the Head of the Fish Regatta mark the end of Middlebury Crew's fall season. The Head of the Fish in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., is famous for its laid-back atmosphere, poor weather and the costumes that some crews wear. Fortunately this year the weather was uncharacteristically beautiful and costumes were abounding.

For Middlebury, the Fish not only signals the end of the season, but the first race for new rowers. Some of the varsity had been away from racing for three weeks due to a cancelled regatta two weeks ago. Coach Alex Machi was pleased with the season closer. "With some of our rowers not having had a chance to get out and race for a few weeks now, I was glad that they not only had good conditions for this end-of-season regatta, but that they made the most of the opportunity and put everything together today."

The novice team, under the direction of Coach Lorie Mackey, raced a men's four and a women's eight, both composed entirely of new rowers. Both boats came off the water feeling successful and excited for the spring.

The women's varsity four (coxswain Matt Griswold '07.5, Ellen Flanagan '09, Erin McCormick '08.5, Janet Schroeder '08.5 and Flora Campbell '09) did an excellent job in the competitive field. They started directly behind Williams, who went on to win the regatta, and in front of a powerful crew from Amherst. The boat defeated multiple attacks from the Argonaut Rowing Club, and only allowed Amherst to pass to clinch third place. Griswold noted, "It was through the determination and dedication of the girls that they were able to hold off the more experienced crews and finish with a time of 15:39."

The Middlebury men had a veritable armada of boats with an eight, a four, a double and a single all competing. The men's double (Doug Penrose '06 and Matt Griswold '07.5) won their race, winning a coveted plaque, which boasts a real fish head, along with the more traditional gold medals.

Despite equipment difficulties on the way to the starting line which ultimately delayed their start, the varsity men's eight pulled together for a successful last race of the season. Coxswain Kelsey Eichhorn '07 remarked on the incredible improvements of the crew as a whole and said, "These guys have pushed themselves really hard this season. I can't wait to get back on the water for the spring sprint season."

The men's four also had an incredible race. Coxswain Eva Nixon '09 reported, "It was beautiful how every little bit came together and the boat just flew. The teamwork and sheer athletic drive was amazing, and it was perfect to see the hard work from the entire season culminate in a great last race."

Water polo sinks Big Green

Panthers dominate North Atlantic Division

By Geoffrey Homer
Staff Writer

Hoping to continue its season long domination in the pool, the Middlebury men's water polo team competed last weekend in the North Atlantic Division Championships. Duplicating their season-long success, the Panthers conquered every team they faced in the pool, cumulating with an impressive defeat of arch-rival Dartmouth College in the championship game. With the win, the Panthers advance to Club Nationals with a 10-1 record for the season. The team will enter the tournament as the 12th seed, based on last year's results, and will take on Grand Valley State in its first game.

Bolstered by the return of Toshi Kido '08, who missed most of the season with a broken finger, the Panthers felt very confident in their chances entering the tournament. As Andrew Herzik '07 confirmed, "Having Toshi back really tipped the scales in our favor."

The first day saw the Panthers compete against hosts Bowdoin College and Boston College. The Panthers used their power and depth to send the Polar Bears to a crushing defeat in their own waters, as the men annihilated Bowdoin by a score of 15-2.

Water Polo

Saturday, October 29	
Middlebury	15
Bowdoin	2
Sunday, October 30	
Middlebury	8
Dartmouth	6

A very confident Middlebury squad continued its success later that afternoon by blowing past Boston College 12-5 with relative ease, setting the stage for the showdown with Dartmouth with the league championship at stake.

Firing on all cylinders, the Panther squad battled Dartmouth to the end, in what was a very intense and exciting match. The final score saw Middlebury reclaim their championship, defeating the Big Green 8-6.

Paced by Robbie Burton '08, who had a standout performance with three goals, the Panthers fought to the end and savored their victory, particularly because Dartmouth defeated them earlier in the year on Oct. 15.

According to Herzik, "It felt really good to avenge the home loss to Dartmouth earlier in the season." Middlebury has now won the last two North Atlantic Division Championships and appears to have a solid future.

The Panthers now have a few weeks off to recoup and savor their championship before traveling to Williams College for Club Nationals on Nov. 18-20.

The team will look to improve on its 12th place finish from a year ago and hopefully move up in the standings into the top 10.

SPORTSBRIEFS

BY ZAMIR AHMED, SPORTS EDITOR

Panthers go back to the future

Athletic Communications

Before the Middlebury men's hockey team begins defense of its back-to-back national titles, it will have to take on a group of familiar faces. The Panthers will be battling an alumni team in an exhibition game this weekend, with the puck set to drop on Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. in Kenyon Arena.

Among those expected to skate for the alumni team are former Panthers Marc and Ray Alcindor, Ian Smith, Mike Anastasio, Sebastien Bilodeau and Mark Spence among others. There will be a presentation between the second and third periods as the Panthers will receive their 2005 National Championship rings.

The Panthers will begin their title defense on Nov. 18, traveling to Tufts to take on the Jumbos in their regular-season opener. The PrimeLink Great Northern Shootout will provide an early season test for the team the next week as they face off against rival Norwich on Nov. 25. The Panthers' home opener will be held on Dec. 2, when the University of Southern Maine comes to town.

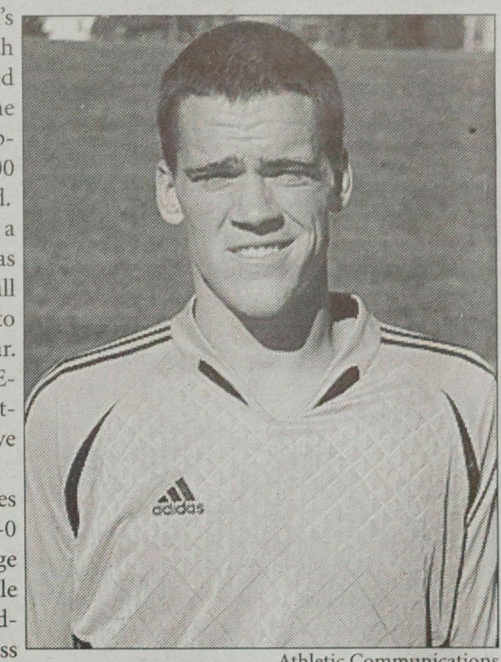
Dog sledding spreads to Midd

On Thursday, Nov. 3, Ed Blechner will be in Middlebury to deliver a talk about his experiences in dog sledding. Blechner, an Addison County resident, raises and trains dogs for sledding and is an experienced musher, running in dog sled races throughout the region for over 30 years. He will be describing what dog sledding is in an attempt to get students interested in trying it out. The talk is also designed to create interest in winter recreation possibilities in the region.

Dog sledding is a sport that does not usually feature on the radar of most students at Middlebury, but Blechner is keen to change this image. Rather than strapping on the skis, or snowboard, many Vermonters spend their winters cruising through the wilderness behind their band of trusty companions. With any luck, dog sledding will one day be offered as a J-Term Physical Education credit, allowing students the chance to combine their love of the outdoors with their love of dogs.

The talk is sponsored by the Middlebury Mountain Club and the Center for Campus Activities and Leadership and will start at 7 p.m. in Bicentennial Hall 220 and is free and open to the public. The Mountain Club will also be leading two hikes this weekend. On Nov. 4, the club will guide a medium-to- hard hike through the Wolfjaw Region of the Adirondacks while on Nov. 5 the group will sponsor an "Old School Hike" in the Adirondacks.

Toth '07 earns POTW honors



Athletic Communications

Middlebury men's soccer goalkeeper Zach Toth '07 has been named NESCAC co-Player of the Week after holding two opponents scoreless for 200 minutes over the weekend.

Toth has anchored a Panthers' defense that has only allowed eight goals all season, leading the team to nine shutouts on the year. He currently leads the NESCAC with a goals-against-average of 0.58 and a save percentage of .875.

Toth made six saves during the Panthers' 0-0 tie against Trinity College in the regular-season finale on Saturday, Oct. 29, holding the Bantams scoreless for 110 minutes.

Bantams' netminder Eric Wunsch's efforts in the game earned him a share of the Player of the Week award as well as he made 16 saves on the day to keep the match even. The following day, Toth blanked the Tufts' offense in the Panthers' 1-0 win in the first round of the NESCAC tournament, making three saves on the day.

Middlebury will next take on Amherst College in the semifinals of the tournament on Saturday, Nov. 5 at Bowdoin. The Panthers previously fell to the Lord Jeffs 2-1 less than two weeks ago but will look to reverse their fortunes with a trip to the NESCAC championship game at stake.

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FOOTBALL | PANTHERS STAND TALL AGAINST NESCACs FINEST | 25

GAMES TO WATCH

MEN'S SOCCER
VS. AMHERST
NOV. 5 | 1:30 P.M.

FOOTBALL
VS. HAMILTON
NOV. 5 | 12:30 P.M.

campus sports

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2005

Toth '07 inspires Midd in first-round nailbiter

Early penalty sends Panthers to NESCAC semis in smash-and-grab victory

Tom McCann
Sports Editor

If the old adage that the foundation of every great team is a great defense is true, the Middlebury men's soccer team of 2005 can consider itself one of the best. Of course, all truly great teams have to win silverware, and at the semi-final stage of the NESCAC tournament, nothing has been proved yet. However, after another shutout performance from Zack Toth '07 and his men, this Panther team has given itself every chance of bringing home the trophy.

Last Saturday, the men's soccer team welcomed Tufts for the NESCAC first-round for the third consecutive year. Two years ago, the Panthers emerged with a hard-fought 1-0 victory, and last year the two teams played out an epic overtime battle. The Panthers eventually came out on top, winning 4-3, after scoring three goals in the final 15 minutes of regular time to force an extra stanza. This year, while not as dramatic, was just as close.

A hallmark of the Panthers this year has been their ability to score the first goal early in the game. True to form, less than eight minutes after the whistle, Middlebury was awarded a penalty for a foul in the box. Co-captain Derek Cece '06 confidently slotted it away, giving the Panthers the early lead with their first real attack of the game. Tufts had started the brighter, but Middlebury made the early breakthrough.

As the first-half continued, the Jumbos began to find some openings in the Middlebury backline. Mattia Chason, a striker for Tufts was put through on goal just three minutes after the Panthers took the lead, only to see his shot from an angle well saved by Toth. Three minutes later Chason had a clearer opportunity, but again Toth stood tall and repelled his effort.

Not long after, Billy Brennan '08 looked to be shepherding a harmless pass back to his goalkeeper, but according to the referee impeded the Tufts attacker running through. An indirect free-kick was awarded to the Jumbos from 10 yards out, and the Panthers looked to be in trouble. For most teams, this unusual scenario would result in a chaotic scramble among the defending team, deciding how to line up and what to do — not Toth's team. The junior barked orders, pulled and pushed players into position and organized almost everyone along the goal line. He took his place in front of the wall and prepared to charge the impending free-kick. As Tufts touched the ball, Toth charged the shot and threw himself in front of it as it hurtled towards the net. The ball cannoned off his chest and after a brief scramble in the box and was cleared for a corner. When someone needed to take command, Toth did just that.

From the ensuing corner kick, Tufts had the ball in the net, only to see the header ruled out for a push in the melee that led to the goal. Despite their complaints, Tufts still trailed the Panthers, courtesy of Toth's bravery and awareness. While the Panthers led at halftime, it was bittersweet, as their talisman David LaRocca '08 was helped from the field after apparently falling awkwardly in an innocuous challenge. Unfortunately for the sophomore, the reigning NESCAC Rookie of the Year, and his team, tests revealed a torn ACL that will end his participation in this year's postseason march. The resilient striker will no doubt bounce back, and the NESCAC will need to be ready for him next year.

The second half yielded few glaring opportunities, although Toth had to tip one powerful drive over the bar in the last few minutes. The inevitable final scramble never really amounted to much, with the Panthers standing firm and claiming a hard-fought 1-0 victory.

The victory means that they will travel to Williams next weekend to face Amherst in the NESCAC semi-final, with a date against either Wesleyan or hosts, Williams to follow, should they emerge. In the past two seasons, Bowdoin has ended the Panthers' season at the NESCAC semi-final stage, but the Polar Bears were shocked 4-1 at home by Wesleyan. The Panthers will not have to take on Bowdoin this year, but can expect an equally tough game from the Lord Jeffs who handed Middlebury a 2-1 defeat earlier this year. The Panthers will look to avenge that regular season loss when it really matters, setting up a probable date with the Ephs for the NESCAC crown.

Albert Bitici

David Lee '07 helped the Panthers record yet another clean sheet, this time against Tufts in the NESCAC first-round.

Ruggers shipwreck overpowered Coast Guard

By Eri Nosaka
Staff Writer

This weekend the men's team faced a doubleheader against Colby College and Coast Guard on its way to winning a New England Championship.

On Saturday, the Panthers played against the Colby Mules and crushed them by a score of 27-7. Although Middlebury's ability to completely overwhelm Colby was memorable, the more important and exciting game from this weekend was against Coast Guard. Last year the team experienced a devestating defeat against Yale University, making it their first loss of the New England Championship in four years. This year however, Middlebury came back with vengeance and conquered Coast Guard in a nail biting game.

Coast Guard, a fierce rival of the Panthers, proved to be far more aggressive and physically impressive than any other team that they had played in the past. Atypical from most of the other scores the team saw this past season, Coast Guard truly gave them a run for their money, eventually losing by a score of 11-6.

"Thanks to the golden toe of Craig Wilson and the incredible play of the forwards, we managed to beat a team that outweighed us by 15 pounds at every position," said Luke Hammock '06.

While the teams were more than equals in skill, talent and dedication, Middlebury's forwards managed to play effectively while also stifling Coast Guard's main weapons: crashing, rucking and mauling.

At the end of regulation time the score was tied at 6-6 due to two successful penalty kicks for both sides. Two five minute halves of overtime were needed to decide the outcomme. Just 30 seconds remained in the second half when Pascal Losambe '07 scored a try, earning Middlebury another New England Championship.

"All in all, it makes me proud to be a part of such a good group of guys who didn't get scared or intimidated, which would have been really easy to do," said Hammock.

Despite needing to play the game in Rutland due to an unplayable field in Middlebury, throngs of friends and family made it out to witness the glorious victory. "It was amazing to see so many fans at the game. We had a lot of first-time spectators who couldn't have asked for a more exciting match. I hope that they will come out again next week, and bring their friends — Middlebury rugby is the best show in town, and this is one of the most exciting teams we have put on the field in quite some time," said Calvin Garner '06.

While the men will no doubt relish its victory, they will still have to return to grueling practices in order to prepare for their next opponent, Vassar College, who they will face in the North East Quarterfinals at home this coming Sunday.

"This game was unlike any game that they have ever played and the boys will remember this one forever. The individual and team efforts from the boys on our team and Coast Guard, was incredible. It was truly, as a whole, a superb job," said Coach Ward Patterson.

Vlad Lodoaba

The Middlebury men's rugby team continued their imperial dominance, capturing the N.E title.